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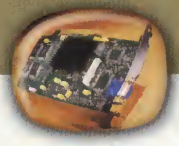

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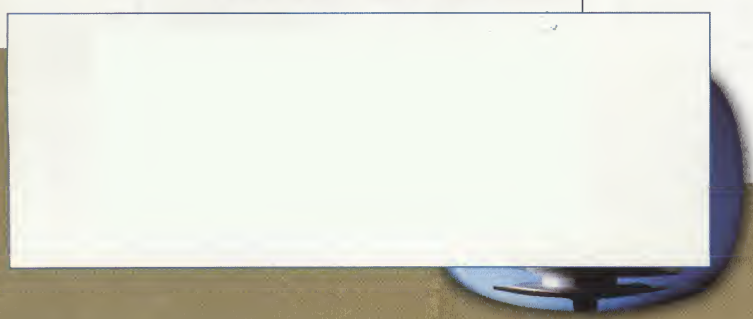

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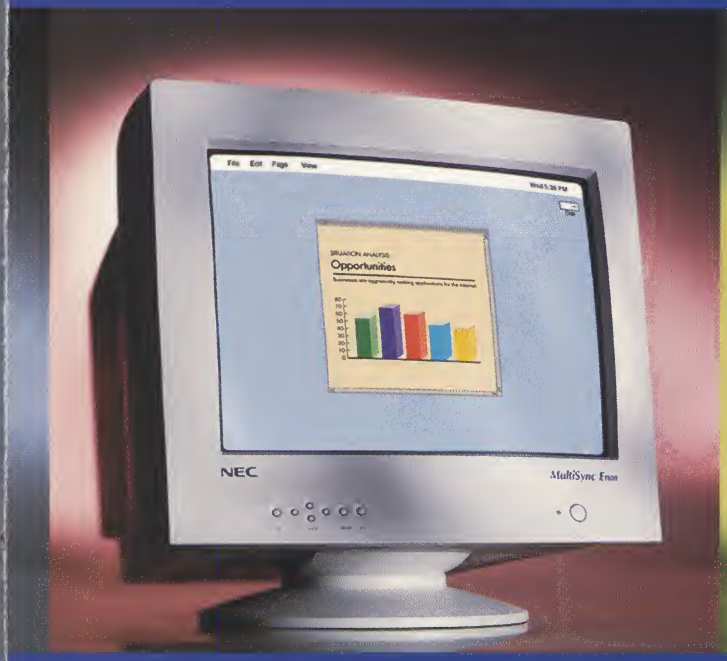

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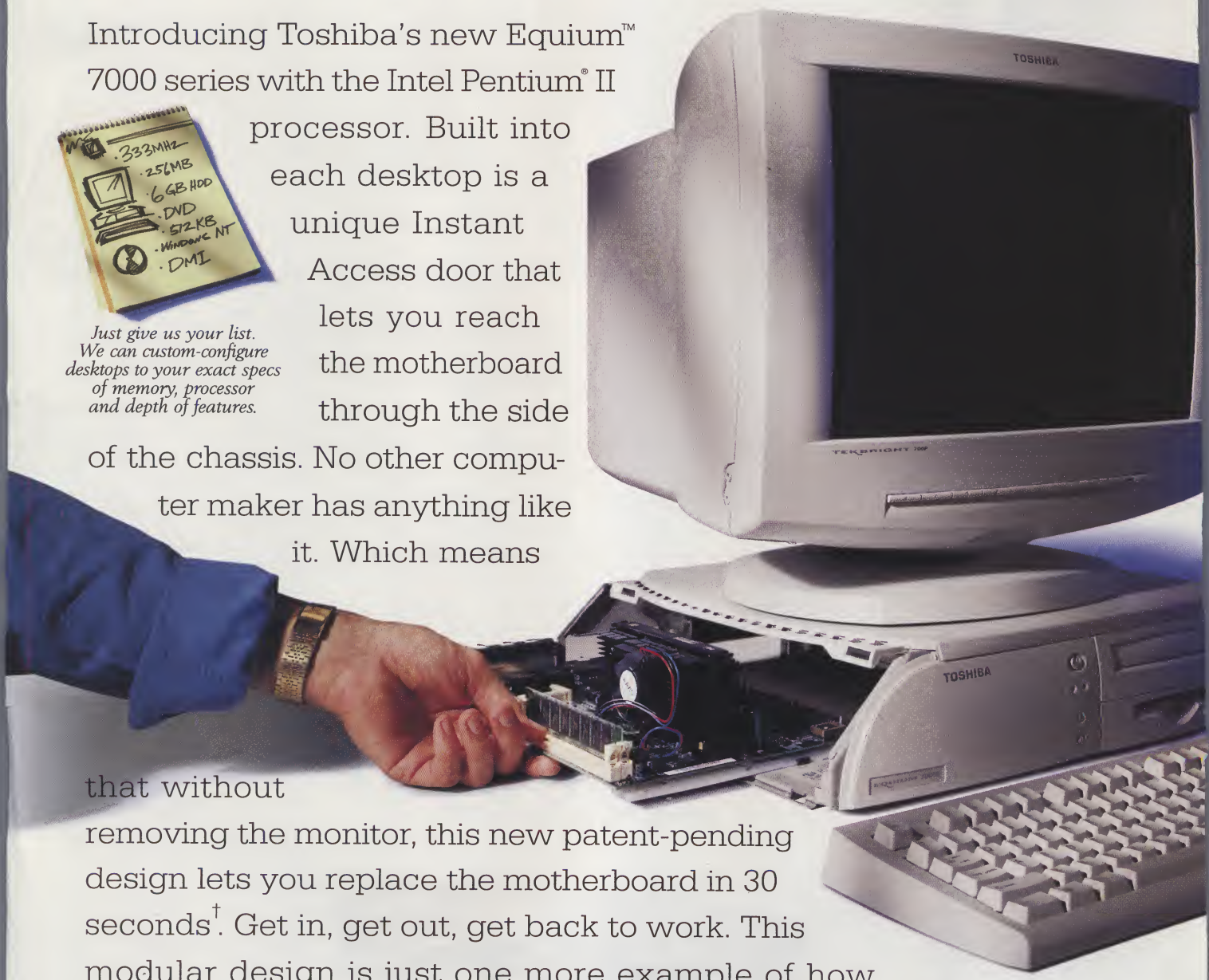

MMX™ intel inside pentium® II processor

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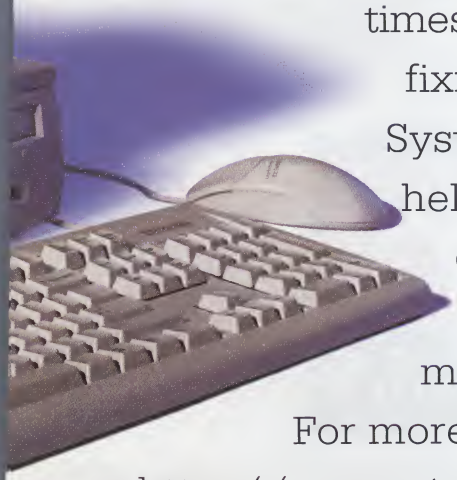

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MMX intel inside pentium II

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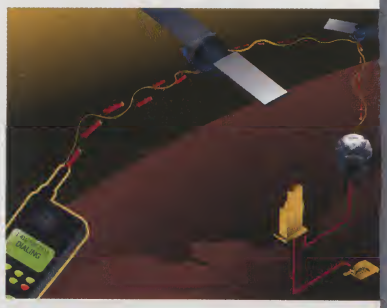

Live Large

No more squinting! Less scrolling! And more room to view in Windows! Supersize 19-inch monitors pay for themselves in no time. **215**

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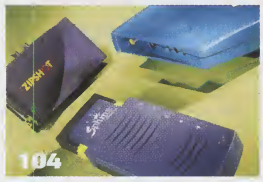

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Instant Gratification Make color copies from your desktop, scan photos in seconds, and put documents in your PC with the click of a button. We test the top low-cost color flatbed scanners starting at $150. Plus a talking pen and a portable DVD player. **229**

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Direction SPL300 - PC Computing, Mar. 1998

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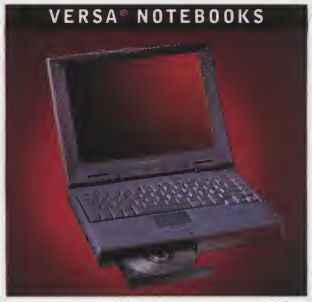

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Portable Computing Direct Shopper, Mar. 1998

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- Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
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- NEC C700 17" Monitor (16" viewable, .27dp)
- Microsoft Windows 95
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- ATX Minitower or Desktop Tool-Less Chassis
- **32MB SDRAM**
- 512KB L2 Cache
- **4.3GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive**
- 32X Maximum Variable-Speed CD-ROM Drive
- **Diamond Viper AGP, 4MB SGRAM Graphics Card**
- Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Yamaha Wavetable Audio
- **U.S. Robotics x2 56Kbps* Winmodem**
- NEC C700 17" Monitor (16" viewable, .27dp)
- Microsoft Windows 95
- **Microsoft Home Essentials 98**
- Microsoft IntelliMouse, NEC Palmrest Keyboard, and Microphone
- 3-Year Limited Warranty with 1-Year On-Site Service

Upgrades:

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➤ Upgrade to 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $89

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Consumer Lease: $71/mo. Code #D5103

Direction 233L

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- 512KB L2 Cache
- **4.3GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- 32X Maximum Variable-Speed CD-ROM Drive
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- **U.S. Robotics x2 56Kbps* Winmodem**
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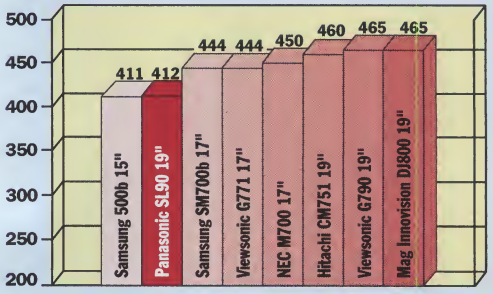

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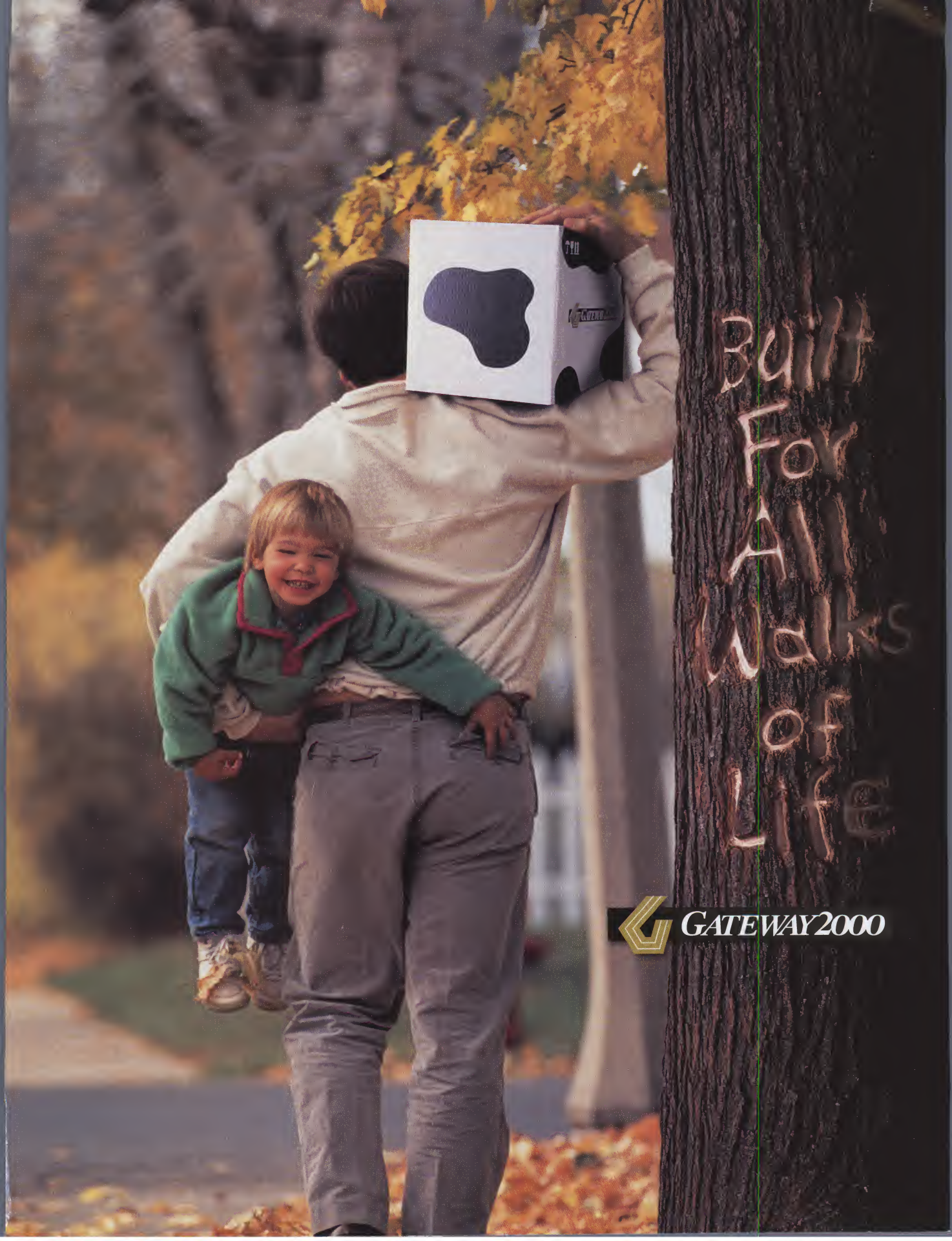
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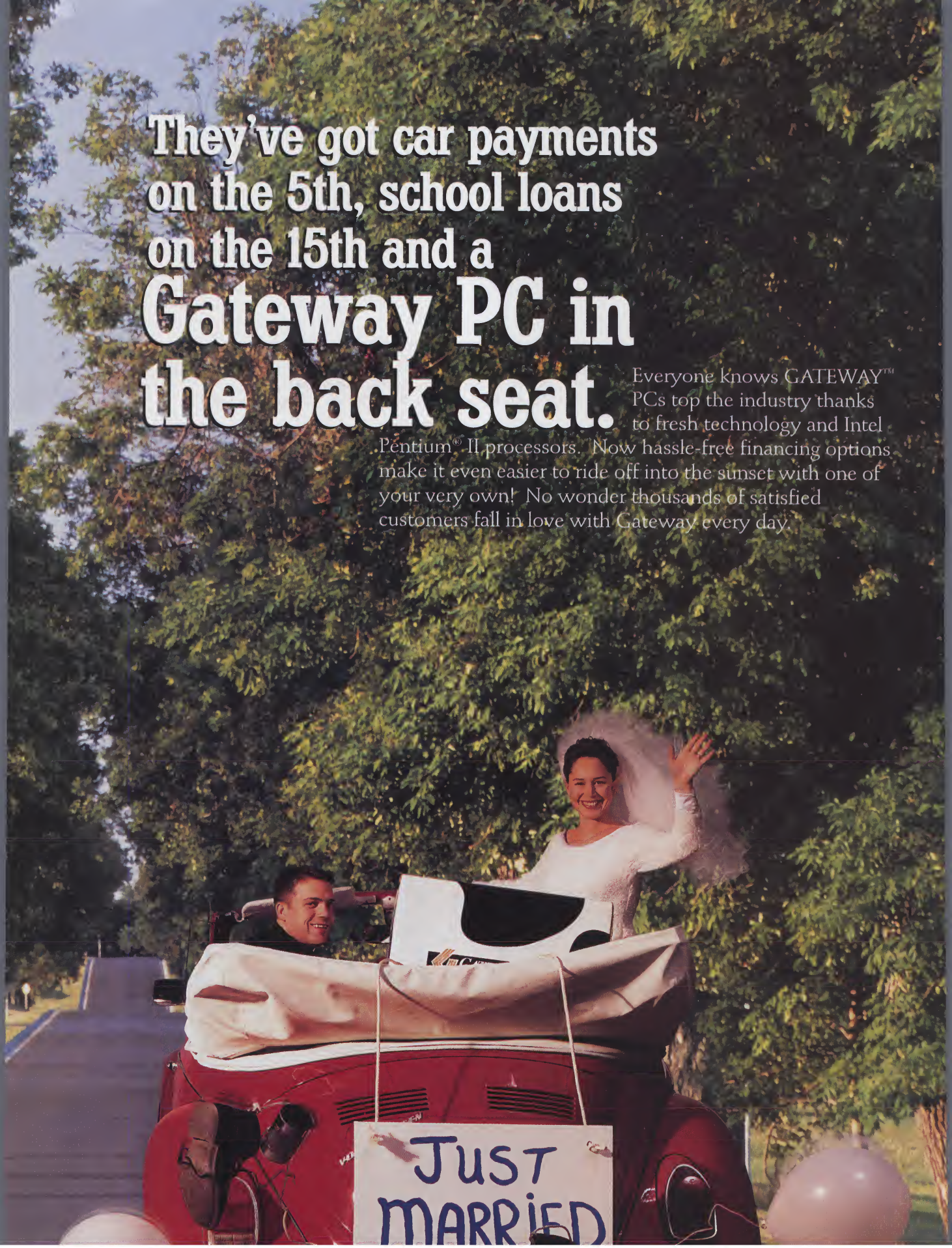
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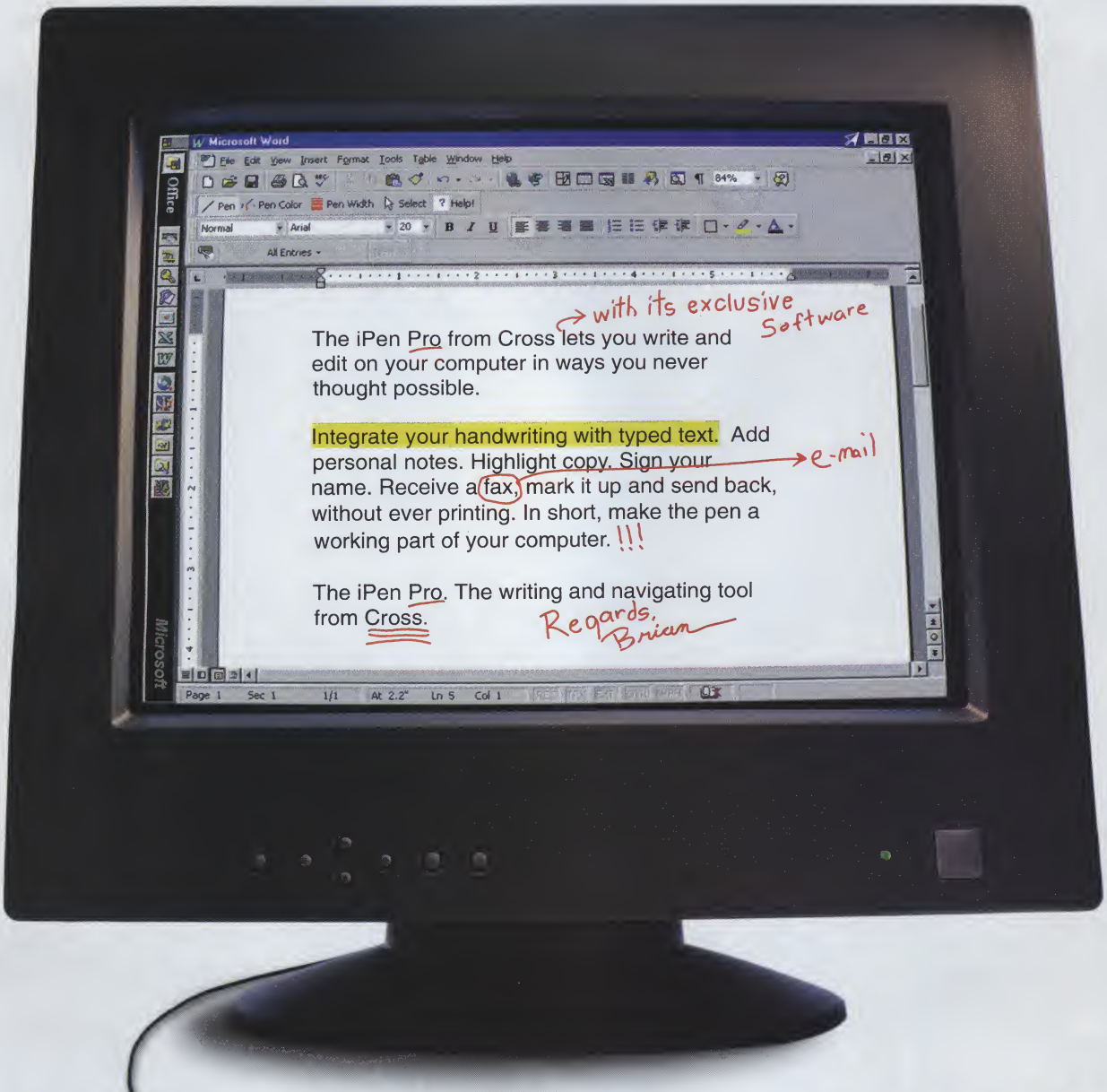

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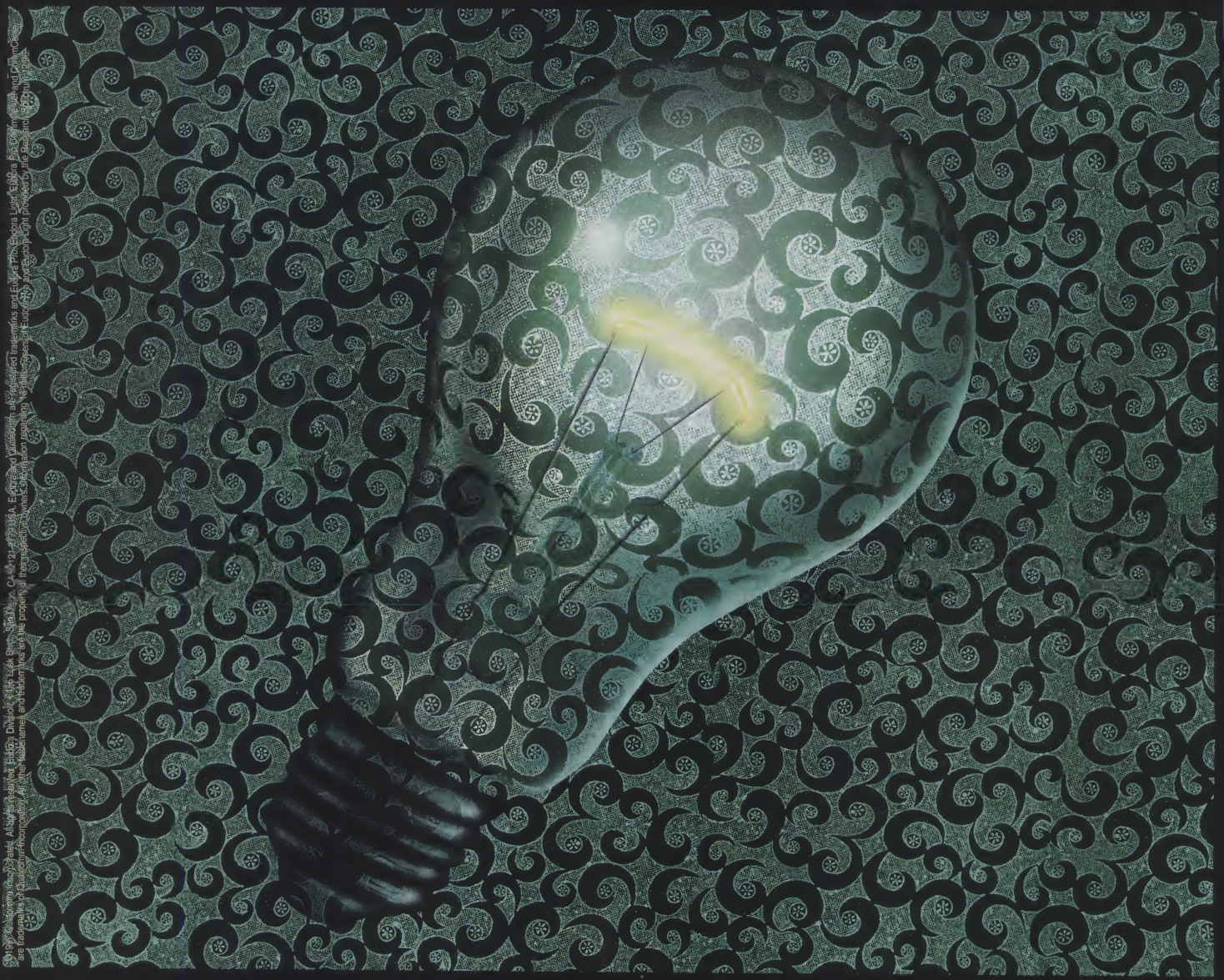

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WINDOWS EXPOSED

The Raw Truth

Yes, yes . . . *yes!* Paul Somerson's March column was so refreshing ("Guilty!" page 87). Kudos to him for admitting that Windows is a piece of trash. It's cyber-litter. Bill Gates is rich because he's a slick, aggressive marketer, not because his company produces quality software. Unfortunately, we're in the Model T era of computers, and some people—primarily those who support Microsoft—are still fascinated by the flickering light emitted by their CRT.

DAVID L. WISELEY
VIA THE INTERNET

Straight Talk

For too many years I've watched in pain as the computer-publishing industry pulled its punches against Microsoft. Congratulations to Paul Somerson for finally telling it like it is ("Guilty!" March). He's the first.

DARYL MATTHEWS
VIA THE INTERNET

For the Defense

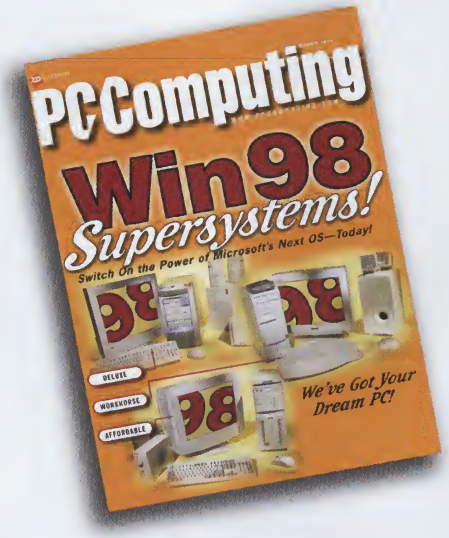
I'm so grateful that a voice in the PC industry actually spilled his guts and exposed the truth to millions of brainwashed and biased Windows users ("Guilty!" March). Paul Somerson, thanks very much.

ROBERT DOWNS
VIA THE INTERNET

For the Prosecution

Windows 95 was released in August of 1995. By that September, I and other computing professionals were calling it a virus and discussing the possibility of a class-action lawsuit against Microsoft for lost time, money, and data. For Paul Somerson to switch sides now is not only convenient and trendy, but also hypocritical ("Guilty!" March). Furthermore, I can't consider him a serious professional user since it took him two and a half years longer than the rest of us to experience the anomalies of the operating system. It's because of a lack of criticism in the press that inferior technologies prevail in the computing marketplace. I'd like to reach out and smack the coy smile off the picture of Somerson's face.

JEFFREY G. LATHAM
VIA THE INTERNET



COOL YOUR JETS, Jeff. We've been running stories like "Windows Lies" for years. I've always thought Windows was a kludge, but we've been reassured by Microsoft since day one that the next bug fix will solve all the problems. We wanted to be fair and give Microsoft a chance. However, this last episode, after so many years of flakiness, put me over the top. And folks, when it comes to smacking people, note that he's a computing professional. Don't try this at home. **PS**

The Gates of Hell

At long last Paul Somerson admits, "Windows is an utter piece of junk" ("Guilty!" March). Yet on the cover of the same issue, *PC Computing* trumpets new hardware specifically designed for coping with Windows 98. Media acceptance feeds Bi'illgatesbub, Lord of the Files' ability to dominate the market with inferior products. If Somerson sincerely regrets this state of affairs, let's see him devote an issue to the alternatives: OpenDOS, Linux, and FreeBSD.

LEWIS EPSTEIN
VIA THE INTERNET

House of Cards

Amen to Paul Somerson's column "Guilty!" (March). I just bought a Pentium II from Gateway. After I installed Internet Explorer 4.0, the PC didn't recognize my CD driver. I called Gateway and some tech-support kid had me frantically moving jumpers and redoing Windows 95 over the phone. He claimed Gateway installed a special BIOS in the newest Pentium IIs and that IE 4.0 had blitzed them. How are we mere mortals supposed to keep up with all this incredibly complex stuff?

LEE GARL
VIA THE INTERNET

Wonder Woody

"Woody's Windows Clinic" transforms the March issue from great to really amazing (page 227). I love the way Woody sets up the article so you can see what the problem is before he tells you how to resolve it. And the free download for

Twofer, which helps you find files faster, is absolutely great. It makes the magazine worth it just by itself! Thank you!

ALAN ROLLINS
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Spam Killers

Thanks to Taylor & Jerome for a great column each month. Their suggestion to change the reply address in newsreaders to SPAMTHISLOSER@*yourdomain*.com, however, needs tweaking ("Spam This," March, page 89). This doesn't cut down on Net traffic; a bogus domain will. Mail sent to a bogus address on a real domain generates lots of e-mail traffic in the form of error messages from Mailer-Daemons. E-mails with bad domains never leave the sender's server.

WAYNE BARBER
VIA THE INTERNET

Tales from the Darkside

OK, I'm a spammer (Taylor & Jerome, "Spam This," March). But my company tries to shine a professional light on spamming. We refer to spam as bulk e-mail and give our recipients our actual e-mail address. We don't advertise adult sites or get-rich-quick schemes. We offer an unsubscribe service that guarantees you'll never receive another piece of bulk e-mail from us. We also limit ourselves to sending 1,000 e-mails per hour rather than 1 million. If all bulk e-mail companies operated under these guidelines, spam wouldn't be such a problem.

JIM THE PIRATE
VIA THE INTERNET

Code of Conduct

My spamming solution is simple and effective (Taylor & Jerome, "Spam This," March). I've set up an e-mail filter that searches for a short code in the subject field of every message I receive. If the filter doesn't see the code (which I provide only to people I want to communicate with), the incoming e-mail is quietly deleted before I ever see it.

JUSTIN RYAN
VIA THE INTERNET

Wish List

Here's a spamming solution that would satisfy me (Taylor & Jerome, March, "Spam This"). All I need is a system that distinguishes solicited from unsolicited bulk mail, sorting the two into different lists. Spam itself doesn't bother me. What I dislike is having to pick my personal messages out of the morass.

WIN HIMSWORTH
VIA AMERICA ONLINE

Hidden Costs

Most of us have the ability to use e-mail filters to effectively stop unwanted messages. But the bandwidth problem doesn't go away unless the supply-demand equation changes. As long as the Internet is low-cost, the bandwidth will be consumed. Satellites, cable modems, and other emerging technologies will take care of the spamming issue. The temporary solution to spam: Ignore it!

GLEN JOHNSON
VIA THE INTERNET

No Free Lunch

Taylor & Jerome's "Spam This" is right on target (March). Most people resent the excessive amount of legislation that comes out of U.S. Congress, most of which is outside the scope of constitutionally mandated congressional power. However, spam creates real costs across every state border. That makes it a matter of interstate commerce, which Congress is required to regulate according to the U.S. Constitution. Regulate spam so it becomes a felony to use a phony return address and it becomes just as costly for companies to send spam by e-mail as it does by fax.

JOHN HAMILTON
VIA THE INTERNET

Fight Back

All my efforts to block spam seem to generate even more of the unwanted garbage. Requests to remove my address from spammers' lists usually just get bounced back to me. So, my solution has been to play along with them. When spam mail arrives, I order as many products as time permits, but with a hitch. I send back lots of orders with fictitious names and addresses. I hope that keeps them as busy as they keep me.

TIM ROCHE
VIA AMERICA ONLINE

By the Numbers

Is it possible to configure server software to let Internet service providers restrict the number of e-mails sent per connection (Taylor & Jerome, "Spam This," March)? An individual user may need to send only 10 messages per connection, a business user may need to send 25, and someone who runs a small mailing list may need up to 250. If there is such an option, it would require spammers to act as their own Internet service providers.

JULES RICKARDS
VIA THE INTERNET

SURE—AND MANY DO. But for businesses sending legitimate mass mailings to customers, these restrictions are often impractical. Still, many spammers have become their own ISPs, frequently picking up stakes and changing domains to avoid the flames they get back. **T&J**

One Born Every Day

I'm sick to death of the incessant chatter and whining about spam (Taylor & Jerome, "Spam This," March). Let's get real. One company that Taylor & Jerome mention expected to make $4 million in 1997. Where did all the money come from? Obviously, a good many of their 20 million spam recipients considered the offered product or service worthy of their hard-earned cash. So the cycle continues, and that's sound business.

RAYMOND J. KAMILLE
VIA THE INTERNET

Spam Illustrated

I found Taylor & Jerome's column about being targeted by spam amusing ("Spam This," March). You see, I just spent the last several minutes navigating through *PC Computing*, hitting pages and pages of ads before I actually found an article. Who's spamming who? At least spammers don't charge me five bucks to read ads.

DENNY BELK
VIA THE INTERNET

Bashing Barney

I enjoyed John C. Dvorak's "Talk About Barbie" (March, page 91). Instead of searching for Barbie, try doing a search

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–The Art of War, Sun Tzu

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on Barney, the purple dinosaur. You'll come up with 25 sites devoted to bashing the annoying beast. Some sites even identify him as the Antichrist. And talk about Barbie's corporate bullying! I represent several of the over 400 mom-and-pop costume store owners across the country that are being sued by The Lyons Group—the company that owns Barney—for stocking an adult costume or two resembling a purple dinosaur. Like Dvorak, I've contemplated a boycott so I don't indirectly contribute to the war chest through an otherwise innocent purchase for my two year old.

JIM CHRISTENSEN
VIA THE INTERNET

McBully

John C. Dvorak's column on corporate bullying reminded me of McDonald's ("Talk About Barbie," March). In my tiny California town there was a little coffee shop called McCoffee's. It had been here since the hills and was called McCoffee's because the owner's name is McCaughey. Once McDonald's arrived it sued the coffee shop. Needless to say, the big guy won and the little coffee shop changed its name—but we still call it McCoffee's.

MARY MUNNECKE
VIA THE INTERNET

Double Trouble

The first thing I noticed about "Windows 98 Dream Systems" was the suggestion to use a dual-processor Pentium II as part of a deluxe desktop system (March, page 174). *Uh oh.* Windows 98 doesn't support symmetric multiprocessing (SMP)—you need NT for that. To use a dual processor you need a hardware abstraction layer (HAL)—a feature excluded from Windows 98. I just wanted to point that out before any uninformed persons spend an extra grand on something they won't be able to use.

JUSTIN RYAN
VIA THE INTERNET

YOU'RE RIGHT. Windows 98 (and Windows 95, for that matter) can't take advantage of a dual processor system. The Kayak XU is a screamer, but you can't appreciate its full performance unless you run Windows NT.

For the Record

In the March "Action!" feature, the telephone number for ATI Technologies should be (905) 882-2600 (page 199); for Diamond Multimedia, (800) 468-5846 (page 202); and for Adobe Systems, (888) 724-4507 (page 210).

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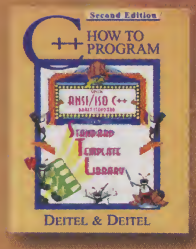

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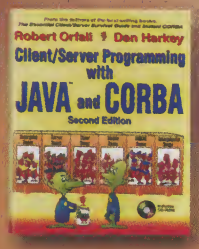
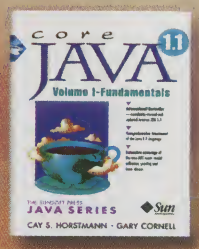


Client/Server Programming with Java™ and CORBA, Second Edition
by Robert Orfali and Dan Harkey

This bestselling guide is now completely revised and updated to provide information on the latest buzz in the industry. Includes coverage of JavaBeans, Java IDL, DCOM for Java—and a CD-ROM full of Java and JavaBeans code. (Wiley 98)

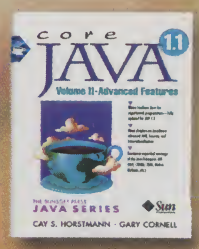
Pub. Price $49.99
B&N Price $39.99



Core Java™ 1.1, Volume 1: Fundamentals
by Cay S. Horstmann and Gary Cornell

This must-have reference provides experienced programmers with comprehensive coverage of encapsulation, AWT graphics programming, data structures and more. The accompanying CD-ROM is packed with sample programs. (Prentice Hall)

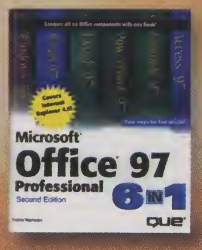
Pub. Price $39.95
B&N Price $31.96



Core Java™ 1.1, Volume 2: Advanced Features
by Cay S. Horstmann and Gary Cornell

Created for serious programmers who have mastered the fundamentals of the Java language, this new volume explains such advanced features as JavaBeans, Advanced AWT and Java Enterprise API. The CD-ROM includes JDK 1.1. (Prentice Hall)

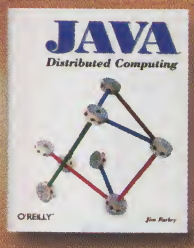
Pub. Price $39.95
B&N Price $31.96



Microsoft® Office® 97 Professional 6 in 1, Second Edition
by Faithe Wempen

Maximize your productivity with Office 97 to create polished documents for home or the workplace. All six Office components are outlined in short, easy-to-follow tutorials, offering tips and cautions to help you learn efficiently. (Que)

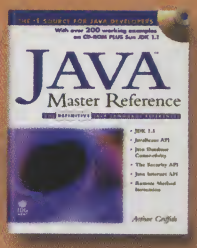
Pub. Price $29.99
B&N Price $23.99



Java™ Distributed Computing
by Jim Farley

Here's an easy-to-use, practical overview of Java's tools and techniques, complete with detailed explanations of the concepts that come into play in most distributed computing situations. (O'Reilly Associates)

Pub. Price $32.95
B&N Price $26.36



Java™ Master Reference
by Arthur Griffith

Organized alphabetically and full of cross-references, this new guide provides easy-to-access information on JDK 1.1, including JavaBeans, inner classes, introspection and security. The enclosed CD-ROM includes Sun's Java Development Kit 1.1 and more. (IDG Books)

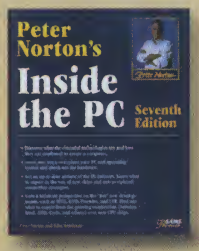
Pub. Price $69.99
B&N Price $55.99

FROM COMPUTER PROFICIENCY.

3D Studio MAX 2® Fundamentals
by Michael Todd Peterson

New MAX users can get up and running fast with this international bestselling resource. Learn basic artistic principles as well as how to use 3D Studio MAX tools. (Que)

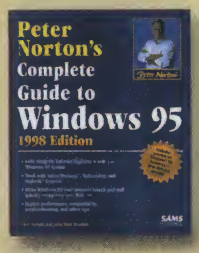
Pub. Price $44.99
B&N Price $35.99



Peter Norton's® Inside the PC, Seventh Edition
by Peter Norton and John Goodman

With more than one million copies in print, this thorough reference addresses the needs of all users—from novices to professionals. Here's essential information for understanding your personal computer. (Sams)

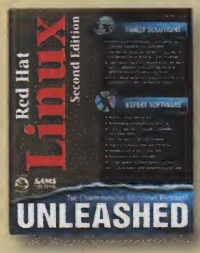
Pub. Price $29.99
B&N Price $23.99



Peter Norton's® Complete Guide to Windows® 95, 1998 Edition
by Peter Norton and John Paul Mueller

Step-by-step procedures and screenshots give readers a clear understanding of the operating system and how to accomplish various tasks. Peter's Principles are expert tips on the best strategies for personalizing a system. (Sams)

Pub. Price $29.99
B&N Price $23.99



Red Hat™ Linux Unleashed, Second Edition
by David Pitts

With the latest release of Red Hat Linux, a complete reference of new features is greatly needed. Find out quickly how to use the management and administration tools. The CD-ROM contains Red Hat Linux 4.2, C, C++, Perl and much more. (Sams)

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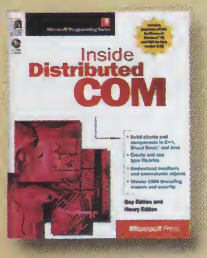
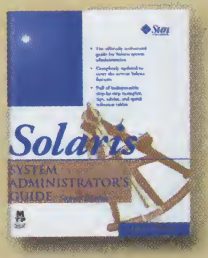
B&N Price $31.99



Inside Distributed Com
by Guy Eddon and Henry Eddon

Learn how to leverage distributed computing power in systems through different development environments such as C++, Visual Basic and Java. Complete with an enclosed CD-ROM. (Microsoft Press 98)

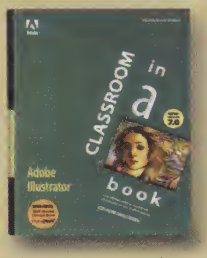
Pub. Price $44.99
B&N Price $35.99



Solaris™ System Administrator's Guide, Second Edition
by Janice Winsor

Designed to work as both a practical tutorial and quick reference, this book provides complete, detailed descriptions of the most frequently performed tasks for Solaris. (Cisco Press)

Pub. Price $34.99
B&N Price $27.99



Classroom in a Book Illustrator 7.0
This official Adobe training book is a self-paced introduction to the latest tools and techniques of Illustrator 7.0. Covers all platforms and includes a CD-ROM containing art and text. (Adobe)

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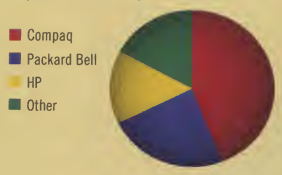
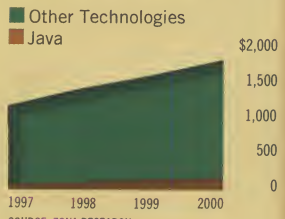
(percent of market share)



SOURCE: COMPUTER INTELLIGENCE

Penny-wise Pentiums: Low-cost systems are coming on strong in the consumer arena, and Compaq leads the pack with almost half the market.

Internet Revenues
(in millions)



SOURCE: ZONA RESEARCH

Java Buzz: Java's share of the Web development technologies market will increase, with revenues from Java-based solutions reaching $179.5 million by the year 2000.

Using Printers
(percent of total usage)

SOURCE: COMPUTER INTELLIGENCE

Double Life: Today's printers are home appliances as well as office tools. An equal number of people use printers in the workplace and at home.

CAR PC SYSTEMS

Windows on Wheels

I brake for e-mail! Consider yourself warned: There's a bumper sticker like that in your future. You'll soon have a PC on your dashboard, thanks to the separate efforts of Microsoft, Intel, and IBM.

Automobile operating systems will tackle some basic computer tasks such as e-mail, mapping, and contact management. Microsoft's new Auto PC will hit the road first, later this year.

An extension of the Windows CE operating system, Auto PC replaces your stereo with a voice-controlled information and entertainment system. You can dial a cellular phone, ask a mapping program for directions, and change radio stations or CD tracks using voice commands. Computer-synthesized speech and wireless capabilities let you listen to your e-mail. And an infrared link lets you transfer contact information from your handheld PC to the Auto PC device.

Stereo manufacturer Clarion will start shipping its version of the Auto PC late this summer. The base unit ($1,299) will include an in-dash CD audio and CD-ROM player, a 140-watt (35 watts x 4 speakers) amplifier, a color LCD screen, voice command and route calculating capabilities, both IrDA and USB interfaces, and a CompactFlash memory card slot. A Hitachi SH3/60MHz processor, 8MB of RAM, and an equal amount of ROM give the system its juice. You can bump up the system's memory via the CompactFlash slot, or use the slot to add forthcoming hardware accessories, such as a paging card.

Several other companies are licensed to deliver Auto PC systems, including Alpine, Daewoo, Harman Kardon, and Samsung. Auto makers Hyundai, Nissan, Saab, and

Honk if You're Wired: Voice-controlled Web surfing in your car could be as common as FM-station surfing when Microsoft, Intel, and IBM bring automobile PC systems to market.

ILLUSTRATION BY PETER ALAN GOULD. ORIGINAL PHOTO BY ERNIE FRIEDLANDER.

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BIG SCREEN
Optiquest's V115T gives you a 21-inch monitor for just $1,179. You'll get 1,600-by-1,200 resolution at up to 75Hz. Contact Optiquest at (800) 843-6784.
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USB, NATURALLY
Microsoft's Natural Keyboard Elite ($65 list) is USB-ready. The friendly keyboard connects to a PS/2 port or a USB jack. Contact Microsoft at (800) 426-9400.
Enter 664 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Volkswagen are working with Microsoft as well.

Meanwhile, Intel demonstrated its Connected Car PC technology, powered by a Pentium MMX processor, at January's Consumer Electronics Show. A larger LCD screen and built-in GPS receiver make the Connected Car a complete auto navigation system. It feeds you e-mail and news reports, and you can add peripherals, like a fax, a scanner, or a digital camera via USB ports. And backseat drivers won't be disappointed, with DVD movies and 3-D games on drop-down LCD screens. Visteon Automotive Systems, a Ford enterprise, will be the first to offer Intel's technology in an in-vehicle computing platform later this year.

Even more futuristic, IBM's Network Vehicle may be the ultimate in auto electronics on wheels. Joining forces with Delphi Delco Electronics Systems (a unit of General Motors), Netscape, and Sun Microsystems, IBM will offer some unique features, including a satellite dish embedded in the car's roof for TV and Net access. The Network Vehicle acts like a mobile Web server, complete with its own Web address. You can lock your car or turn off the lights remotely from the Web site.

IBM's Network Vehicle won't be available for another three years. But Microsoft's Auto PC and Intel's Connected Car are well on their way to making every road an information superhighway. CO

Contributors to Pulse: LESLIE AYERS, LIESL LA GRANGE NOBLE, CHRIS O'MALLEY, RICH SCHWERIN, *and* RON WHITE.
Edited by JULIE POLITO.

Loud and Clear

Want to roll your own **streaming audio and video** on the Web? You got it. RealNetworks' new suite of encoding tools include **RealPublisher 5.1** ($49), which lets you create live content, plus two plug-ins for streaming your message to the masses—**RealPublisher Plug-In** ($99) for Adobe Premiere, and **RealPresenter Plug-In** ($39) for Microsoft PowerPoint 97. Watch for more multimedia content by fall. RS

RealNetworks Suite of Publishing Tools / $49 for RealPublisher 5.1, $39 for RealPresenter Plug-In, $99 for RealPublisher Plug-In, est. street prices / RealNetworks / (800) 444-8011 / *Enter 665 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

56Kbps Modems

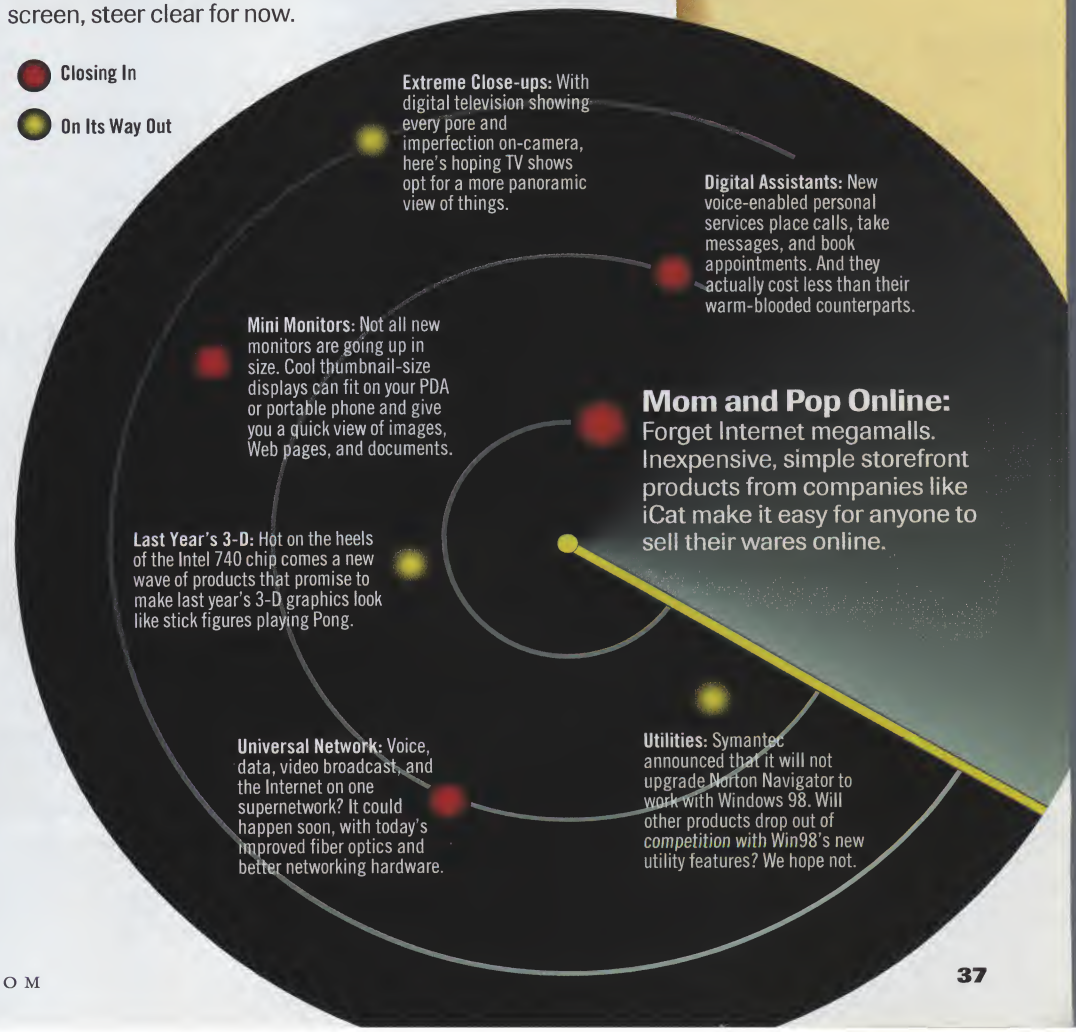
With the new 56K standard, it's time to get up to speed with a 56Kbps modem. Here are the cheapest ones we could find as of March 1.

Product	Price
PC-Tel 56K Internal *PC Mall* *(800) 863-3282*	$54
Viking 56K ISA *CompUSA* *(800) 700-9899*	$60
NewCom 56kifxC Internal *Egghead Computer* *(800) 344-4323*	$76
Motorola ModemSurfr 56K *NECX Direct* *(800) 808-3375*	$87
U.S. Robotics Sportster 56K *MicroWarehouse* *(800) 397-8508*	$90

Enter InfoLink numbers at www.pccomputing.com/infolink: PC Mall, *666;* CompUSA, *668;* Egghead Computer, *669;* NECX Direct, *670;* MicroWarehouse, *667.*

RADAR Too Close for Comfort, Supernetwork

What's on the scope? If a blip is near or moving toward the middle of the radar screen, check it out. If it's moving off the screen, steer clear for now.



Don't Mess with SID

Installing any version of Windows can be a painfully time-consuming process, but NT makes it particularly excruciating. The tedium starts with the license agreement, which requires a dozen page-downs followed by an F8 before you can move on. And then it's one dialog box after another, with serial numbers to enter, options to select, and seemingly endless confirmation boxes.

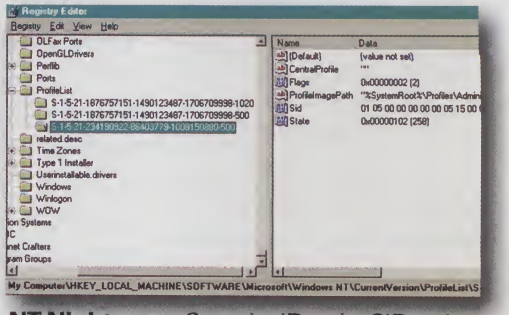
That's not a prescription for productivity, especially when you're a busy IS tech with a roomful of new PCs to configure by day's end. So why not just install Windows NT once and then copy the fresh new installation to the remaining PCs? After all, there are several utilities, including PowerQuest's Drive Image and Ghost Software's Ghost, that can reliably duplicate the image of a hard drive in a fraction of the time it would take to install from the NT CD.

It's a tempting option, but before you start copying, heed this warning: If you don't follow exactly the right procedure, you could end up with an administrative mess and a security nightmare. The problem? When you install Windows NT, the Setup program generates a unique 96-bit number called a Security ID, or SID, for the computer. This number serves as the basis for all user accounts on that computer, and it's at the core of NT's daunting security architecture. If you simply copy files from one PC to another, you'll end up with duplicate SIDs on the same network, and it will be impossible to set up effective security controls.

Fortunately, there's a solution for both leading drive-copy programs. PowerQuest (www.powerquest.com) developed a utility called SIDchanger, which generates statistically unique IDs and replaces the SID values and computer names in the Registry for the new PC. Ghost's solution (www.ghost.com)—a utility called Ghost Walker—accomplishes the same goal.

Although you can automate the process to a degree, you'll need to be thoroughly conversant with DOS batch files (yes, these are DOS utilities) before you get to work. And RTFM should be SOP: Don't even think about using either of these utilities until you read the documentation thoroughly.

ED BOTT



NT Nightmare: Security IDs, aka SIDs, give administrators fits if they're not unique. New utilities help manage them.

NT TOOLS

FULL-STRENGTH REGISTRY EDITOR

Regedit is not for amateurs, as any NT support professional will testify. If you'd like to lock down users' systems so they can't dive headfirst into Registry trouble, try KeyVision from IntraSoft (www.keyvision.com). At $1,495 for a 25-user license, it's not exactly cheap, but its ability to restrict Registry edits and update Registry keys on NT and Windows 95 machines over the network could be priceless.

UNDELETE ANYTHING

Finally, Norton has some competition. Sunbelt Software (www.sunbelt-software.com) has announced RecoverNT, an undelete utility that recovers deleted files from FAT and NTFS volumes on any NT machine. Because it bypasses the file system to build its own directory tree, the $25 package can restore files that were deleted from a command prompt or thrown out of the Recycle Bin.

MODEMSHARE 32

Artisoft (www.artisoft.com) made its name with low-cost, high-function network software. Its latest offering, ModemShare 32, is in step with that tradition. For $179, it lets NT and Win95 users share a modem on a network for fax, file transfer, remote control, and Net access.

BRIEFS NT NEWS AND TRENDS

Novell vs. Microsoft

Microsoft may have won the network OS wars, but Novell isn't going down without a fight. The latest involves Novell's NetWare Directory Services (NDS) for NT, which lets administrators integrate domain-based NT servers into Novell's easier-to-use directory service. Microsoft's initial response was a dire threat: NT users who installed NDS for NT, they said, would lose support privileges. Cooler heads prevailed, and the upgrade is now fully supported.

NT 5.0 Slipping Away

Beta 1 of NT 5.0 arrived last September, but Beta 2 may not appear until midsummer. Even top Microsoft executives aren't holding their breath that the latest beta will be ready before the end of June. The new Active Directory code and Zero Administration features are the leading schedule busters. Looks like we'll be well into 1999 before the new OS is ready for final delivery.

From Unix to NT

Silicon Graphics, fresh from a round of layoffs, should ship its first NT-based workstation sometime this year. The new visual PCs will be the first PC-compatible systems from the legendary maker of high-end graphics workstations.

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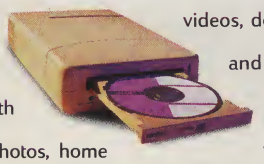
Expanding Possibilities

Introducing the HP CD-Writer Plus.



An amazing new rewritable CD drive that actually lets you create your own CDs. They're as easy to use as floppies, but with room to store and share up to 650 megabytes worth of photos, home videos, documents, and files. (You can even make your own music CDs and play them on your home stereo.) Now you'll have your most important stuff handy when you really need it. Visit www.hp.com/go/cdr or call 1-800-249-1305 for more information.

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- Adaptec 2940UW
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- 12 Bay Tower Chassis, 600 Watt Red. Power
- Server Management Software & Alarm Avail.

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- 64MB of SDRAM Exp. to 512MB ECC Supported
- #9 Revolution 8MB Video AGP
- Adaptec 2940 UW on Board
- 4.3 GB Ultra Wide SCSI 8.5 ms HD
- Sony 32x CD-ROM
- Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Mid Tower Case

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9GB 7200 RPM Ultra 33 Solution $2098

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- 512KB Cache, Up to 2 CPUs
- 64MB SDRAM Exp. to 512MB
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- Q: (3) 4GB Ultra Wide Removable HD 8.5ms
- RAID 5 Controller, 3 Channels with 16MB Cache
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- Number Nine 334 4MB Video
- Intel 10/100 Ethernet
- Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- 12 Bay Tower, 300 Watt Red. Power Supply

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A-List

Editors' top picks in 100 hardware, software, and Internet categories. **Edited by Wendy Taylor and Kyla K. Carlson**

DESKTOP SYSTEMS

Get Ready: 333MHz Pentium IIs are screaming-fast, but the fun's just beginning. Watch for 400MHz and 450MHz Pentium IIs to arrive by summer.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
State-of-the-Art PC Gateway 2000 G6-333	**Too much good stuff: The G6-333 is not only the fastest 333MHz Pentium II you'll find, it's also loaded.**	$2,928, 333MHz Pentium II, 64MB RAM, 14GB hard drive, AGP graphics. (800) 846-2000. See this issue, page 194.
High-Performance PC NEC Direction 300L	**One of the best deals going for neck-snapping performance. Bolt it to your desk before you boot.**	$2,188, 300MHz Pentium II, 64MB RAM, 6.4GB hard drive. (888) 863-2669. See Feb. 1998, page 182.
Desktop Workhorse Dell Dimension XPS D233	**Yesterday's top-of-the-line MMX Pentium is today's bargain workhorse for Windows 95. Check it out.**	$2,099, 233MHz Pentium, 32MB RAM, 32X CD-ROM drive, Zip drive. (800) 388-8542. See Mar. 1998, page 174.
Low-Cost Desktop PC Magitronic Technology G-P2233	**It's no mirage: Get a loaded 233MHz Pentium II for under a grand.**	$999, 233MHz Pentium II, 32MB RAM, 24X CD-ROM drive, 3.2GB hard drive. (800) 454-8754. See this issue, page 194.
SOHO System IBM Aptiva S62	**At last! A multimedia PC that plays as hard as it works. The sleek black design means it's not a household eyesore either.**	$2,599, 266MHz Pentium II, 32MB RAM, 6.4GB hard drive, DVD, 56Kbps modem. (800) 426-7235. See Jan. 1998, page 152.
Pricewise Direct System Tagram Thunderbolt	**You're out of excuses: The Thunderbolt is one of the fastest 300MHz Pentium IIs we've tested at a rock-bottom price.**	$1,999, 300MHz Pentium II, 64MB RAM, 6.4GB hard drive. (800) 824-7267. See Feb. 1998, page 184.

SERVERS

Not So Fast: 400MHz and 450MHz Pentium II chips won't arrive in servers until the fall. Load up on RAM and a fast disk and your network won't notice.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
High-Performance Web Server Compaq ProLiant 850R 6/200H	**Everything you need to serve up an NT-based Web site—in under an hour.**	$4,800, 200MHz Pentium Pro, 128MB RAM, 4.3GB SCSI hard drive. (800) 345-1518. See Mar. 1998, page 104.
Small Workgroup Server Micron Electronics NetFrame LV2000	**Jump-start your network: Micron's dual-processor Pentium Pro server runs full steam ahead.**	$7,999, 233MHz MMX Pentium II, 256MB ECC RAM. (888) 634-8799. See Jan. 1998, page 155.
Large Workgroup Server Compaq ProLiant 6000	**A network powerhouse that's easy to manage and grows with your company. For smaller loads, get HP's NetServer LX Pro.**	$20,900, four 200MHz Pentium Pro CPUs, 512MB RAM, two 4.3GB SCSI drives. (800) 345-1518. See Apr. 1998, page 88.

PORTABLE SYSTEMS

Poof! Put it in your briefcase and it disappears. HP's Sojourn is the trimmest notebook you can buy (page 95). Too bad it also costs almost seven grand.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
State-of-the-Art Portable IBM ThinkPad 770	**The civilized way to travel: a 14.1-inch display, surround-sound audio, DVD, and a 33.6Kbps modem included.**	$5,199, 233MHz MMX Pentium, 32MB SDRAM, 5.1GB hard drive. (800) 426-2968. See Jan. 1998, page 156.
Desktop Replacement NEC Computer Systems Versa 6060	**An excellent dollar value for a desktop replacement. Add the optional Zip drive and you'll never look back.**	$2,999, 166MHz MMX Pentium, 32MB RAM, 3GB hard drive. (888) 863-2669. See Oct. 1997, page 256.
Traveling Multimedia Portable Dell Latitude CP M233ST	**Takes a licking and keeps on ticking. Dell's portable is a torture-test survivor four years running. Wow!**	$3,099, 233MHz Pentium, 32MB RAM, 3.2GB hard drive. (800) 388-8542. See Apr. 1998, page 172.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

VERSA® 6000 NOTEBOOKS

Our most powerful notebooks are also the ultimate desktop replacements, thanks to their VersaBay flexible docking solutions and accessory options.

"...[Versa] with the recently introduced 6260, they have created a quintessential executive powerhouse of a laptop."

Portable Computing Direct Shopper -Apr. 1998

Versa 6260

- **266MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology**
- **13.3" XGA Active-Matrix TFT Color Display**
- 64MB EDO DRAM (128MB Maximum)
- 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 5.0GB Hard Drive
- Lithium Ion Battery
- Modular VersaBay™ II Accepts 20X Maximum Variable-Speed CD-ROM Drive, 1.44MB Floppy Drive (both included) or Optional 2nd Lithium Ion Battery, NEC VST® Zip100 Drive, or SuperDisk™ 120MB Drive
- PCI Bus Architecture with NeoMagic™ 128-Bit Graphics Accelerator
- 32-Bit CardBus and Zoomed Video Support
- USB, 4Mbps Fast Infrared and NTSC/PAL-TV Ports
- Microsoft® Windows® 95
- Full Docking Capability

Upgrades:

- 2nd Lithium Ion Battery, add $189
- PowerXtender™ Airplane and Auto Adapter, add $89
- MiniDock™ 6000, add $499

$4799

Business Lease: $173/mo. Code #V6263

VERSA 5000 NOTEBOOKS

The compromise between weight and features is over. The screen is large, the processor is fast, the profile is thin, the weight is light, and the price is affordable.

"Thin is in, and NEC's Versa 5080, at 4.9 pounds and 1.5 inches thick, is a power user's full-featured laptop with a waifish form factor."

BYTE Magazine -Mar. 1998

Versa 5080X

- **233MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology**
- **13.3" XGA Active-Matrix TFT Color Display**
- 32MB EDO DRAM (144MB Maximum)
- 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 2.1GB Hard Drive
- Lithium Ion Battery
- **New SuperDisk 120MB Drive for UltraSlim™ VersaBay**
- Modular UltraSlim VersaBay with NoStop Swap™ Technology Accepts SuperDisk 120MB Drive, 20X Maximum Variable-Speed CD-ROM Drive, 1.44MB Floppy Drive, and Weight-Saving Module (all included)
- PCI Bus Architecture with NeoMagic 128-Bit Graphics Accelerator
- 32-Bit CardBus and Zoomed Video Support
- USB and 4Mbps Fast Infrared Ports
- Microsoft Windows 95
- 5 Pounds** and 1.5" Thin

Upgrades:

- PortBar™ 5000 with Ethernet, add $249
- U.S. Robotics® x2™ 56Kbps* Modem, add $159
- VersaPro™ Ballistic Nylon Carrying Case, add $89

$3599

Business Lease: $130/mo. Code #V5086

POWERMATE® PCs

NEC PowerMate systems offer the superior compatibility and desktop manageability to lower the cost of ownership across your enterprise.

"PROS: Great price, strong performance, network ready. CONS: None."

PowerMate Enterprise Windows Sources -Jan. 1998

PowerMate 8000-300

- **300MHz Pentium II processor with 512KB L2 Cache**
- 32MB SDRAM
- 3.2GB Ultra DMA 33 EIDE Hard Drive
- 24X Maximum Variable-Speed CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- ATI XPERT@Work™ AGP, 4MB SGRAM Graphics Card
- Integrated Yamaha Audio
- 1 USB Port
- Onboard Intel PRO/100M 10/100 Fast Ethernet with Wake-On LAN Support
- NEC MagicEye™ Technology
- Intel LANDesk® Client Manager 3.01
- IntelliCase Minitower Chassis
- Keyboard and Microsoft Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 95 and McAfee® VirusScan™
- 3-Year Limited Warranty with 1-Year On-Site Service

Upgrades:

- Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add $99
- Upgrade to 4.3GB Ultra DMA 33 EIDE Hard Drive, add $50

$1699

Business Lease: $63/mo. Code #P8008T2

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All our servers, from workgroup to enterprise, are fully scalable, featuring best-of-class components like ECC memory and Intel processors for investment protection.

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AIM: Price Performance Guide -Winter 97/98

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- ExpressBuilder™ Installation Software
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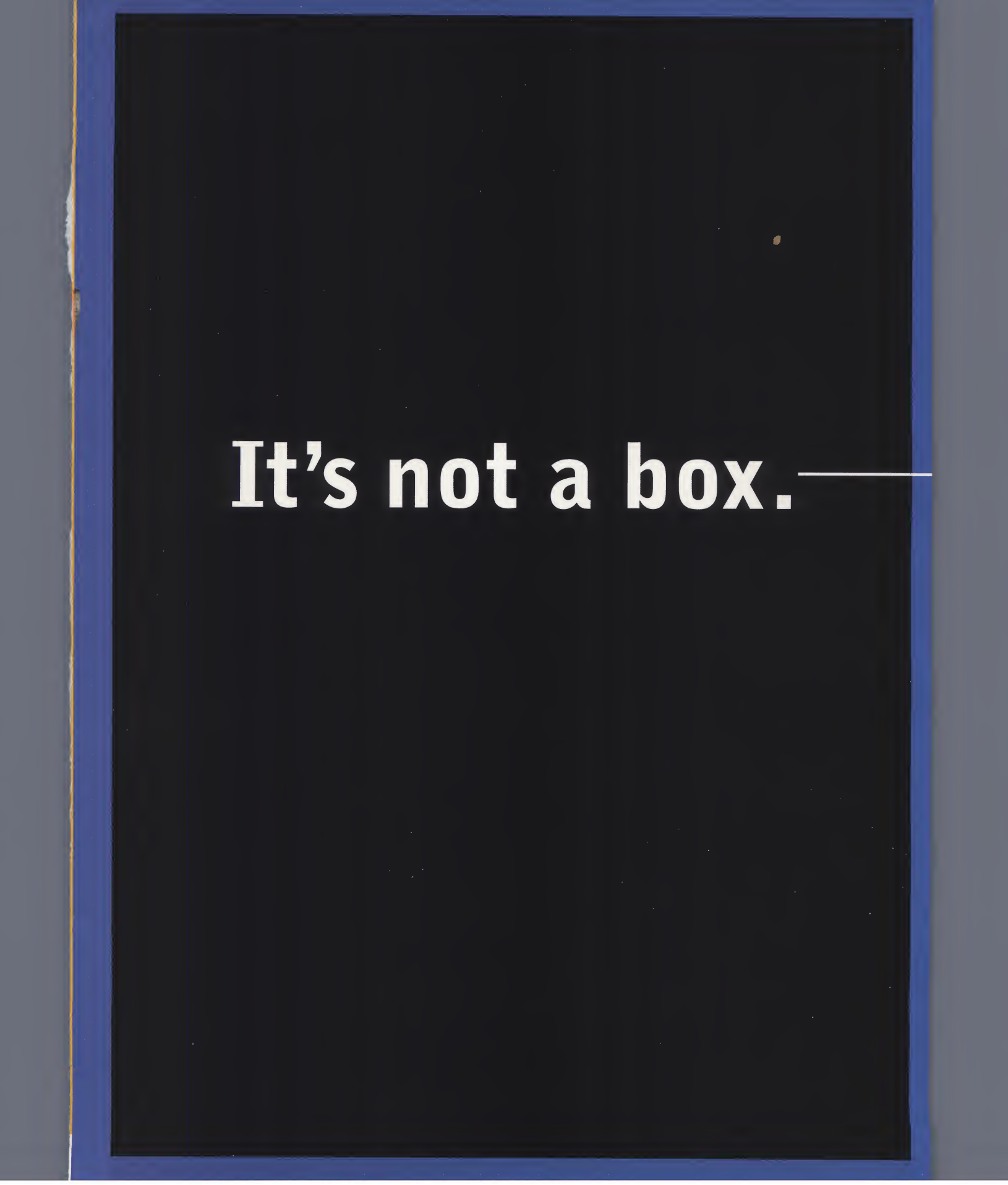
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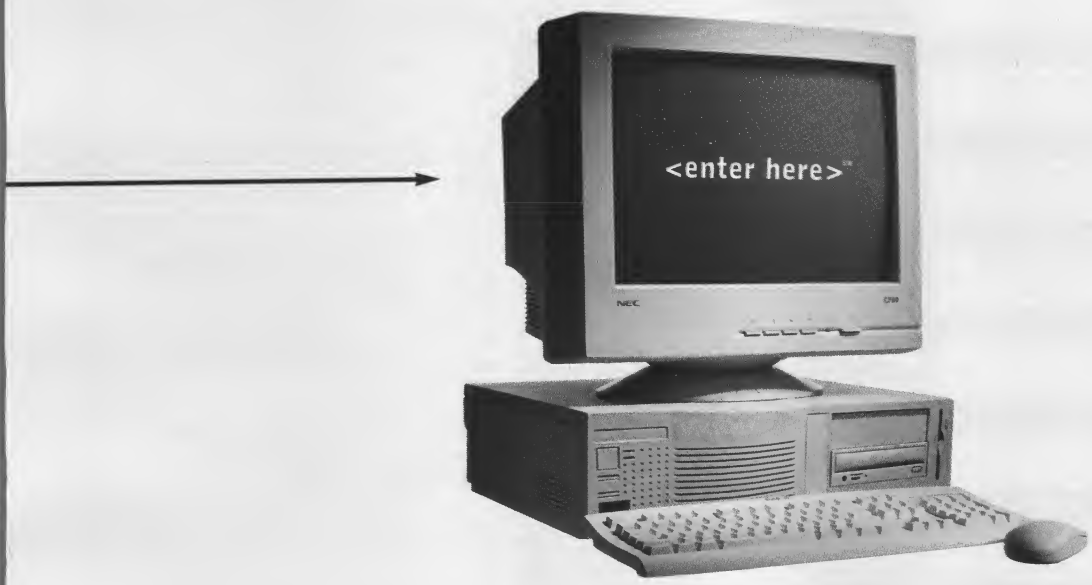
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PORTABLE SYSTEMS continued

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Lightweight Traveling Companion IBM ThinkPad 560E	Everything you need and only what you need to travel: a 12.1 inch display and top-drawer usability.	$2,999, 166MHz MMX Pentium, 16MB EDO RAM, 2.1GB hard drive. (800) 426-2968. See Jan. 1998, page 156.
Handheld Portable 3Com PalmPilot Professional	So popular that Windows CE portable makers are copying the design. For tips and tricks check out www.tapped.com.	$299 list price, 1MB RAM, backlit display, 5.7 ounces. (800) 881-7256. See Jan. 1998, page 157.

PRINTERS

Look Sharp on a Shoestring: Brother's MFC-4550 used to be the only low-cost laser multifunction printer. Now there's HP's and Canon's.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Low-Cost Desktop Laser Printer NEC Technologies SuperScript 860	A full-featured 600-dpi desktop laser printer for under $400? Why not put one on every desk?	$399, 8 ppm, 600 dpi. (800) 632-4636. See Jan. 1998, page 163.
High-Speed Desktop Laser Printer NEC Technologies SuperScript 1260	Cut the office wait around the printer queue and boost productivity in the bargain. Every office should have one.	$699, 12 ppm, 600 dpi, network option. (800) 632-4636. Stay tuned.
High-Speed Network Laser Printer Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5Si Mopier	It prints, sorts, and staples at speeds close to your $20,000 copy machine. It's more fun to use too.	$9,143 list price, 24 ppm, 3,100-page capacity, 420MB disk drive. (800) 752-0900. See Dec. 1996, page 106.
Multifunction Printer/Fax/Copier Canon MultiPass L6000	The only peripheral your small office needs: a laser, scanner, fax, and copier in one.	$599, 600-dpi laser printer, copier, fax, scanner. (800) 652-2666. See Jan. 1998, page 164.
Desktop Color Printer Epson Stylus Color 800	Who says high-quality color has to cost a fortune? Epson's color ink jet delivers photo-quality prints for just pennies.	$349, 1,440-by-720-dpi color and black, 7-ppm color, 8-ppm black. (800) 463-7766. See Jan. 1998, page 162.
Low-Cost Network Color Printer Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 1600CM	The least expensive way to give everyone on the network ink-jet color output. It's fast too.	$1,999, ink jet, 4-ppm color, 9-ppm black. (800) 752-0900. See Jan. 1998, page 162.
High-Speed Network Color Printer Lexmark Optra SC 1275n	Breaks all the rules about color laser printers: It's fast, it's high-res—and it doesn't cost a fortune.	$4,450, 1,200 dpi, 3-ppm color, 12-ppm black, printer management software. (800) 539-6275. See Jan. 1998, page 163.
Personal Photo Printer Sony DPP-M55 Digital Color Photo Printer	Photos too hot for Fotomat? Skip the trip to the mall and print your own 5-by-7 photos in seconds on Sony's miniprinter.	$499, dye sublimation, 144-dpi resolution, infrared port. (800) 326-9551. Stay tuned.

STORAGE

Have It All: Iomega's popular 1GB Jaz drive just got fatter—and faster. The best part? The new 2GB drive still reads older 1GB disks.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Hard Drive Quantum Bigfoot TX	Save this. And that. With Quantum's speedy and affordable 12GB hard drive, you have room—and cash—to spare.	$399, 12GB Ultra ATA, 12ms average seek time, 3.3 cents per megabyte. (800) 624-5545. See this issue, page 108.
Removable Storage Iomega Corp. Jaz 2GB	Stuff your life—all 2GB of it—in your shirt pocket with the bigger and faster Jaz 2GB.	$549 for internal, $649 for external, SCSI, Windows 95 and NT. (800) 697-8833. See Apr. 1998, page 96.
CD-ROM Drive Panasonic 12X Big 5	Faster isn't always better. The Big 5's 12-speed is all you need for today's CDs. Bonus: its five-disc changer.	$279, EIDE interface, 12X changer, holds five discs. (800) 742-8086. See Jan. 1998, page 186.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

Dream Machine.
Not The Bike. The Digital Color Copier.

A Digital Color Copier For Every Department. Every Company. $14,895.

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A-List

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STORAGE continued

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
CD-Recordable Drive Ricoh MediaMaster	An inexpensive way to roll your own CDs and share multimegabyte files. This one's rewritable too.	$699 list price for internal SCSI drive, $25 each for discs, 6X read, 2X write. (800) 225-1899. Stay tuned.
Network Storage Seagate Technology Barracuda 18	Upgrade that trusty Barracuda 9 to the mother of all hard drives: the sizzling Barracuda 18.	$1,700, 18GB, 100MBps peak transfer rate. (800) 732-4283. See Mar. 1998, page 174.

PERIPHERALS

Instant Gratification: Watch for digital cameras from Epson that let you print to Epson's high-res printers. Other camera makers are sure to follow.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Personal Document Scanner Visioneer PaperPort 6000	Plug it in and it works: This flatbed scans pages and color photos in seconds.	$199, 600-by-1,200 dpi, OCR, image editing, and document management. (800) 787-7007. See this issue, page 232.
Graphics Scanner Epson Expression 636 Pro	Why should the art department have the perks? Epson's high-res flatbed scanner makes professional scans one-button easy.	$1,399, 36-bit, 600 by 1,200 dpi (4,800-dpi enhanced). (800) 463-7766. See Jan. 1998, page 167.
Digital Camera Kodak Digital Science DC210	A no-compromise point-and-shoot camera with excellent image quality. The price isn't bad either.	$899, 1,152-by-864 resolution, video-out, 2X zoom, CompactFlash storage. (800) 235-6325. See Feb. 1998, page 106.
Sound Card Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE64 Gold	Makes games so real you'll duck when bullets sing by your head. Oh yeah, it's also great for business multimedia.	$199, 64-voice. (800) 998-5227. See Jan. 1998, page 186.
Speakers Altec Lansing ADA310 PowerCube USB Digital Audio Speaker System	Get better sound from your desktop than your stereo with this USB-controlled AC-3 system.	$249, 24-watt subwoofer with AC-3 decoder, 3-inch satellite speakers. (800) 258-3288. See Apr. 1998, page 219.
Uninterruptible Power Supply American Power Conversion Back-UPS Pro 650	Neither your data nor your budget will take a hit in a blackout. The APC is small in size and price, but packed with power.	$265, 650-VA UPS, four battery-protected outlets. (800) 877-4080. See Apr. 1998, page 220.
Input Device IBM ScrollPoint Mouse	Get to the point faster: IBM's ScrollPoint lets you move through Web pages sideways and diagonally.	$60. (800) 426-7235 ext. 4340. See Jan. 1998, page 326.

VIDEO HARDWARE

Intel Everywhere: Graphics cards based on Intel's 740 AGP chip (page 90) are taking Windows by storm. Can independent board makers hang on?

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
High-Resolution 20- or 21-Inch Monitor Samsung Electronics America SyncMaster 21 GLs	Picture this: more Windows per square inch and razor-sharp text. This is one upgrade that pays for itself.	$1,479 for 21-inch, 1,600 by 1,200 pixels at 68Hz, Plug and Play. (800) 933-4110. Stay tuned.
High-Resolution 17-Inch Monitor Sony Multiscan GDM-200PS	Priced a bit higher than the competition, but you're worth it, right?	$849, 1,600 by 1,200 pixels at 70Hz (maximum resolution). (800) 352-7669. Stay tuned.
Flat-Panel Display NEC Technologies MultiSync LCD2000	Compaq's 15-inch flat panel offers sharper images, but the NEC gives you 20.1 inches. If money's no object, this is the one to buy.	$6,599, 0.31mm pitch, 20.1 inches, 8.5-inch depth, 1,280 by 1,024 resolution at 75Hz. (800) 632-4636. See Nov. 1997, page 266.
Graphics Accelerator Number Nine Revolution 3D	The board to have if you work hard and play hard too. Screaming-fast 2-D and 3-D to rival any game card. Great for NT.	$219, 8MB WRAM, 1,920 by 1,200 pixels at 65K color, PCI/AGP interface. (800) 438-6463. See Nov. 1997, page 114.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

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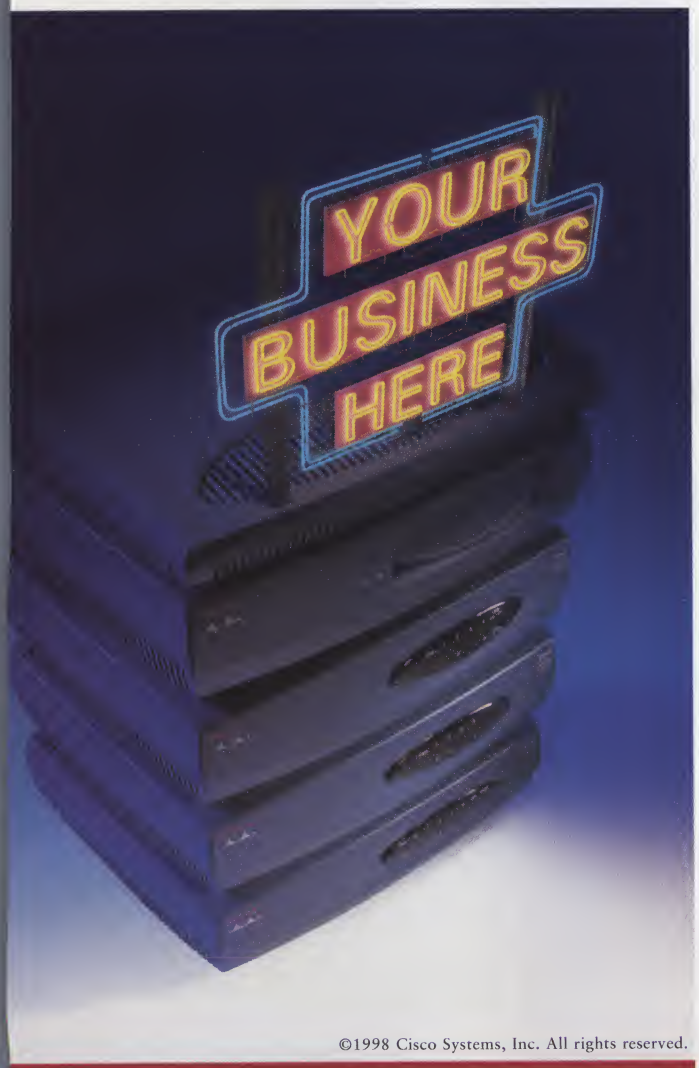

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The Internet offers your small business virtually unlimited opportunities. It can bring you closer to your customers and suppliers. It can help you build a competitive advantage through a faster, more productive and better informed team. It can extend your sales reach around the globe. It can bring you new customers, new revenues, new profits.

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Of course, every small business is concerned about security. We've taken that into account with the broadest range of firewall and data encryption solutions to protect your business. Security is simply not an issue.

You don't have to worry about replacing your existing equipment, either. The Cisco Networked Office stack works with what you already have. And gives you the flexibility to easily add on to improve performance or add more users as your needs grow while protecting your current networking investments.

Call today for more information at 1-800-778-3632, or visit us at www.cisco.com. And get ready to do some major business.

A-List

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VIDEO HARDWARE continued

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
3-D Game Card Real 3D StarFighter	**If you're serious about AGP, you'll want this card. The Intel740 chip produces the smoothest 3-D images we've seen yet.**	$200, 8MB SGRAM, 1,600 by 1,200 maximum 2-D resolution. (800) 393-7730. See this issue, page 90.
Multimedia Accelerator ATI All-in-Wonder Pro	**The future of PC graphics: a high-speed 3-D accelerator, TV tuner, and video-capture card in one.**	$279, 4MB SGRAM. (905) 882-2600. See Mar. 1998, page 195.
Video Capture Pinnacle Systems miroVideo DC30 Plus	**Show Hollywood how it's done with this high-speed digital video editing combo.**	$999, 720 by 480 capture resolution. (888) 484-3366. See Mar. 1998, page 195.
Presentation Projector In Focus LP420	**It's like a mobile movie theater. Take your sizzling presentations on the road with this 6.8-pound wonder.**	$5,999 list price, 800 by 600 SVGA resolution, 500 ANSI Lumens, 6.8 pounds. (800) 294-6400. Stay tuned.

COMMUNICATION HARDWARE

Drastic Measures: Can't get cable, DSL, or ISDN? Analog modem-bonding utilities let you turn two 56K modems into one 112K pipe (page 141).

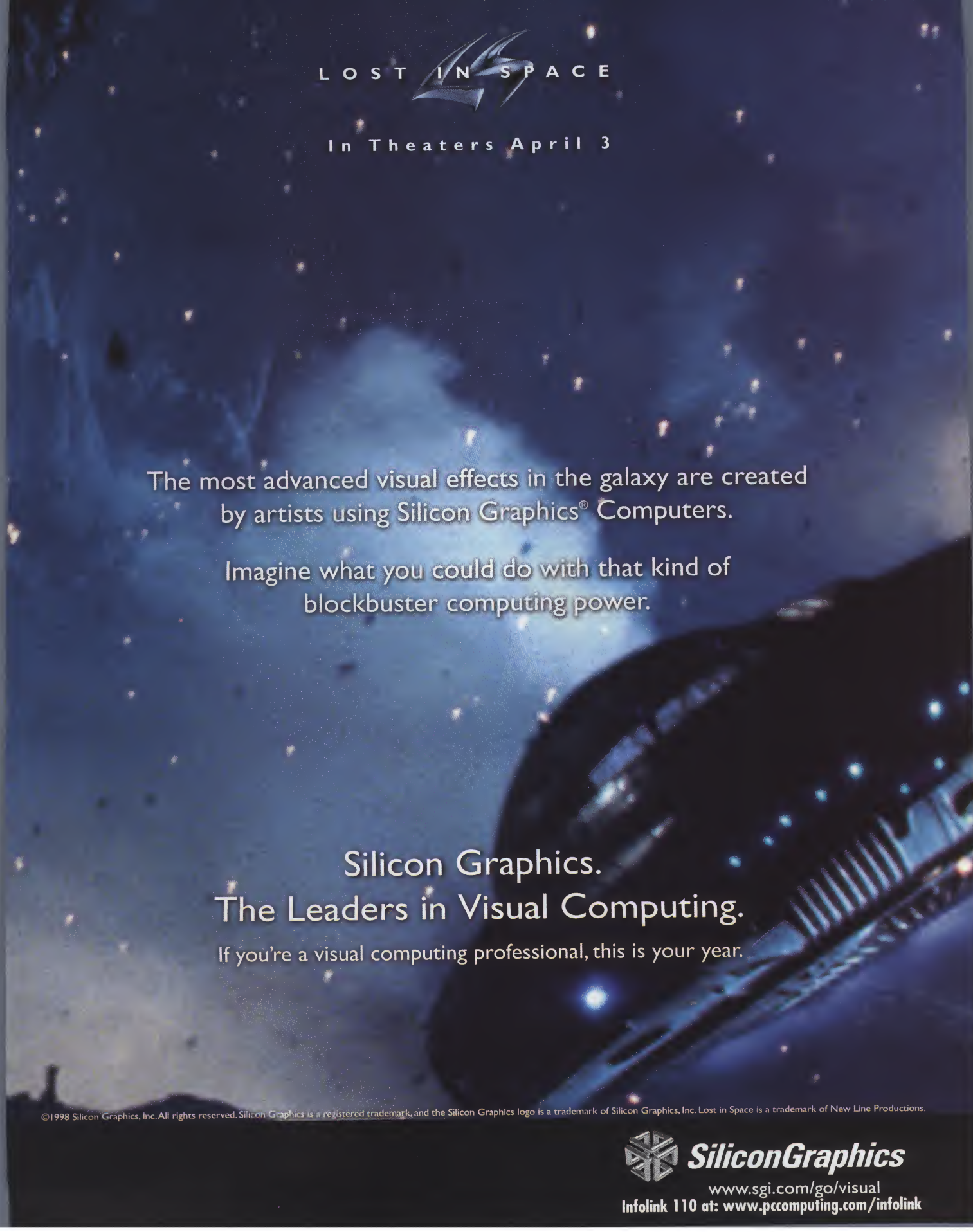
Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
High-Speed Fax Modem Shark Multimedia Leopard XT-56K	**A bargain communicator that's a breeze to set up. Doubles as a fax, voice-mail, and speakerphone system too.**	$110, external, 56Kbps (K56flex standard), flash-ROM upgradable. (800) 800-3321. See Apr. 1998, page 203.
Desktop Videoconferencing PictureTel Live200	**Slash your travel costs and hold coast-to-coast meetings without leaving the office. Just added: NT support.**	$1,195, H.320-compliant. (800) 716-6000. See Jan. 1998, page 199.
ISDN Adapter 3ComImpact IQ	**ISDN doesn't have to hurt. You'll be up in minutes with 3ComImpact's toll-free setup service and SuperNetAccess.**	$399 list price, (800) 638-3266. See Feb. 1998, page 280.
LAN Adapter 3Com Fast EtherLink XL PCI TX 10/100 Network Interface Card	**Boost your network performance without breaking the bank. Runs at 10Mbps and 100Mbps speeds.**	$94, 10Mbps or 100Mbps. (800) 638-3266. See Jan. 1998, page 194.
PC Card Modem Ositech Communications Five of Hearts Trumpcard	**Put a 56K modem in your portable—and make calls through digital hotel PBXs—with this smart credit-card–size modem.**	$230, K56flex standard. (888) 674-8324. See Oct. 1997, page 286.
PC Card LAN Adapter Xircom CreditCard Ethernet 10/100+Modem 56	**Connect to your laptop or network at either 10Mbps or 100Mbps, and go online at up to 56K (K56flex technology).**	$322, PC Card Type II slot, RJ-45 and RJ-11 jacks, upgradable to 56K standard. (800) 438-4526. See Jan. 1998, page 194.

DESKTOP APPLICATIONS

Office Freebies: Make your version of Office even better: Check out www.microsoft.com/office/update.asp for free downloads and updates.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Software Suite Microsoft Office 97	**It's not perfect, but it's the best-selling business application suite by a mile. Get the OSR-1 update at www.microsoft.com.**	$599 for Professional Edition ($309 for upgrade), Windows 95 or NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 206.
Word Processor Microsoft Word 97	**The standard for businesses everywhere. WordPerfect fans should check out Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 Professional.**	$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 8MB RAM, 16MB RAM for NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 87.
Spreadsheet Microsoft Excel 97	**It's a one-horse race and guess who's winning? Even Lotus's upgrade of 1-2-3 can't unseat this business favorite.**	$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 8MB RAM, 16MB RAM for NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 87.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.



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NEW DELL INSPIRON 3200 D266XT
266MHz PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR
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Common features listed above plus:
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- 144MB SDRAM
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- 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem
- Leather Carrying Case
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- 6.9 Pounds*

★ *Inspiron Port Replicator, add $159.*
★ *3Com® 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter, add $169.*

$3999

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Order Code #890401

NEW DELL INSPIRON 3200 D266XT
266MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR
FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 80MB SDRAM
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- 56K Capable** x2 Modem
- 2nd Smart Lithium Ion Battery
- Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
- 6.9 Pounds*

★ *Upgrade to 96MB SDRAM, add $99.*
★ *Inspiron Port Replicator, add $159.*

$3699

Business Lease◊: $136/Mo., 36 Mos.
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NEW DELL INSPIRON 3200 D233XT
233MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR
FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 64MB SDRAM
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem
- Leather Carrying Case
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
- 6.9 Pounds*

★ *Upgrade to a 266MHz Pentium II Processor, add $200.*
★ *Upgrade to 96MB SDRAM, add $199.*

$3299

Business Lease◊: $121/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890405

DELL INSPIRON 3000 M233XT
233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 64MB SDRAM
- 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
- 6.9 Pounds*

★ *Upgrade to a 266MHz Pentium Processor, add $100.*
★ *Upgrade to 80MB SDRAM, add $99.*
★ *2nd Smart Lithium Ion Battery, add $169.*

$2999

Business Lease◊: $114/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890407

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DELL LATITUDE CP M233XT
233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

NETWORK-TAILORED NOTEBOOK
Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 128MB EDO RAM
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem
- C-Port Advanced Port Replicator with 3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter
- Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case
- MS Windows NT® Workstation 4.0
- 6.4 Pounds*

$4699

Business Lease◊: $173/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890402

DELL LATITUDE CP M233XT
233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

NETWORK-TAILORED NOTEBOOK
Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 80MB EDO RAM
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem
- Leather Carrying Case
- 6.4 Pounds*

★ *Upgrade to 128MB EDO RAM, add $299.*
★ *Upgrade to MS Windows NT Workstation 4.0, add $85.*

$3999

Business Lease◊: $147/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890404

DELL LATITUDE CP M233XT
233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

NETWORK-TAILORED NOTEBOOK
Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 64MB EDO RAM
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- 6.4 Pounds*

★ *Upgrade to 96MB EDO RAM, add $199.*
★ *C-Port Advanced Port Replicator with 3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter with Monitor Stand, add $349.*
★ *56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem, add $199.*

$3599

Business Lease◊: $132/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890406

DELL LATITUDE CP M233ST
233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

NETWORK-TAILORED NOTEBOOK
Common features listed above plus:
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 48MB EDO RAM
- 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600
- 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem
- 5.9 Pounds*

★ *Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $99.*
★ *2nd Smart Lithium Ion Battery, add $169.*
★ *Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case, add $69.*

$3299

Business Lease◊: $121/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890408

These are just a few of the thousands of configurations available.

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Burst Cache ◆ **Stereo Speakers with 3D Surround Sound and Yamaha Software Wavetable** Explorer ◆ Touchpad ◆ Extendable 1-Year Limited Warranty†

DELL INSPIRON 3000 M233ST 233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY	DELL INSPIRON 3000 M200ST 200MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY
Common features listed above plus: • 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 48MB SDRAM • 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600 • MS Office 97 Small Business Edition • 6.4 Pounds* ★ *Upgrade to 80MB SDRAM, add $199.* ★ *Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $99.* ★ *56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem, add $199.*	Common features listed above plus: • 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 32MB SDRAM • 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600 • MS Office 97 Small Business Edition • 6.4 Pounds* ★ *Upgrade to a 233MHz Pentium Processor, add $200.* ★ *Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add $199.* ★ *Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $99.*
$2499 Business Lease◊: $95/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890409	**$2199** Business Lease◊: $83/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890411

DELL NOTEBOOK POWER UPGRADES

DELL INSPIRON	DELL LATITUDE®
• Upgrade from 32MB SDRAM to 64MB SDRAM, add $199. • Upgrade from 64MB SDRAM to 96MB SDRAM, add $199. • Upgrade from a 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $99. • 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem, add $199. • 56K Capable** x2 Modem, add $149. • 2nd Smart Li-Ion Battery, add $169. • Leather Carrying Case, add $99. • Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case, add $69. • Inspiron Port Replicator, add $159. • 3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter, add $169. • Upgrade to MS Office 97 Professional, add $199.	• Upgrade from 32MB EDO RAM to 64MB EDO RAM, add $199. • Upgrade from 64MB EDO RAM to 96MB EDO RAM, add $199. • Upgrade from a 2.1GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive to a 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $99. • Upgrade from a 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $99. • C-Port Advanced Port Replicator with Integrated 3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter, add $299. • C-Dock Expansion Station with Integrated 3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter, Media Bay, Ultra SCSI-II Port, Half-Height PCI Slot and Monitor Stand, add $649. • 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem, add $199. • Leather Carrying Case, add $99.

MAXED-OUT ON SPEED, NOT PRICE.

Cache ◆ **Stereo Speakers with 3D Surround Sound and Yamaha Software Wavetable** ◆ 1-Year On-site^ Service

DELL LATITUDE CP M233ST 233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY	DELL LATITUDE CP M200SD 200MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY
NETWORK-TAILORED NOTEBOOK Common features listed above plus: • 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 32MB EDO RAM • 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600 • 5.9 Pounds* ★ *Upgrade to 64MB EDO RAM, add $199.* ★ *Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $99.* ★ *56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem, add $199.* ★ *Leather Carrying Case, add $99.*	NETWORK-TAILORED NOTEBOOK Common features listed above plus: • 12.1" Fast Response Dual Scan Display • 32MB EDO RAM • 2.1GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600 • 5.9 Pounds* ★ *Upgrade to 48MB EDO RAM, add $99.* ★ *Upgrade to a 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $99.* ★ *56K Capable**x2 Modem, add $149.* ★ *2nd Smart Lithium Ion Battery, add $169.*
$2999 Business Lease◊: $114/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890410	**$2299** Business Lease◊: $87/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890412

If it's speed you want, then speed you'll get. Dell's new line of Inspiron™ 3200 notebooks feature the Intel Pentium® II processor – the fastest mobile processor available from Intel. And best of all, you don't have to spend extra for the latest technology. Not only will you get the fastest mobile Pentium II processor available, up to 266MHz, you will also get SDRAM, the fastest mainstream memory technology. To top that off, the Ultra ATA hard drives can transfer data twice as fast in burst mode as normal ATA hard drives. And, if that doesn't blow you away, then maybe the 13.3" XGA active matrix display and 3D surround sound will. The new Dell® Inspiron 3200 notebook with a Pentium II processor allows you to up the ante and hold on to your wallet. To take advantage, give us a call or stop by our website.

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DESKTOP APPLICATIONS continued

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Database Microsoft Access 97	Lotus's $105 Approach 97 is easier to use, but only Access 97 lets you publish live data to the Web. It's also faster.	$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 12MB to 16MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. See Mar. 1997, page 171.

FINANCE SOFTWARE

Write It Off: Put your handheld PC to work tracking your expenses with On the Go Software's ExpensAble. Also works with the PC version of Quicken.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Personal Finance Manager Intuit Quicken Deluxe 98	Get the newest version of the best PC money manager, then keep it up-to-date at www.quicken.com.	$59, Windows 3.1 or 95, 8MB RAM, 14.4Kbps modem, CD-ROM drive. (800) 446-8848. See Dec. 1997, page 159.
Business Accounting Intuit QuickBooks 5.0	You don't need to be a bean counter to get heavy-duty accounting help.	$99, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM, 34MB hard disk space. (800) 446-8848. See Mar. 1998, page 215.
Tax Software Intuit TurboTax Deluxe	Didn't get what was coming to you in '97? Fight back with Turbo Tax. Get a jump on your 1998 refund today.	$50, Windows 3.1 or 95. (800) 446-8848. See Feb. 1998, page 103.

NETWORK SOFTWARE

NT Lite: Setting up a network doesn't have to cost a fortune. Now even small shops can take advantage of NT with BackOffice Small Business Server.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Network Operating System Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0	NT 5.0 is delayed, but NT 4.0 is still a good buy for businesses: It's stable, secure, and runs all your favorite apps.	$809 (NT Server with five clients). (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 185.
Groupware Novell GroupWise 5.2	Share everything you always wanted to—and nothing you don't—with this powerful groupware solution.	Starting at $718 for five clients. (800) 453-1267. See Jan. 1998, page 227.
Small-Office Network Server Microsoft BackOffice Small Business Server	Everything you need to set up a network, complete with e-mail, an intranet, Web hosting, and network monitoring.	$1,499 for five clients, 100MHz Pentium, 64MB RAM, 2GB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Dec. 1997, page 122.
E-mail Qualcomm Eudora Pro Email 4.0	If you juggle more than one e-mail account, you need Eudora Pro. Download a free version at www.qualcomm.com.	$39 for single user, Windows 95 or Windows NT, Internet access. (800) 238-3672. See Jan. 1998, page 227.
LAN Management Tool Intel LANDesk Management Suite	Make your network manager earn his keep: One utility gives you instant feedback on the network.	$50 per node for 100 nodes, Windows 95 or NT. (800) 538-3373. See Apr. 1998, page 110.

PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE

Part Deux: Outlook 97 owners, do yourself a favor: Download the free upgrade to Outlook 98 to get better e-mail and usability improvements.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Contact Manager GoldMine Software GoldMine 4.0	It's fast, thorough, and it never forgets a detail—who wouldn't want a do-everything assistant like GoldMine?	$695 for five users, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 16MB RAM. (800) 654-3526. See Mar. 1998, page 124.
Document Manager Visioneer PaperPort Deluxe 5.1	It's way past time to get all that paper off your desk. Store images and documents in nested folders on your hard drive instead.	$79, Windows 95 or NT, 8MB RAM. (800) 787-7007. See Jan. 1998, page 210.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

The leaders in new technology do it again!

ViewSonic's "Short depth" CRTs put high performance in less space.

ViewSonic® proudly introduces the PS790, the world's first 19" (various viewable) short depth monitor.

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ViewSonic P815 ViewSonic 17GA *June 1997*
ViewSonic PT775 *July 1997 January 1998*
ViewSonic G810 *January 1997*

See The Difference!® That Earned Over 300 Awards Worldwide.

Monitor	GS771	PS790
Screen Size/ Viewable	17" (16.0" viewable)	19" (18.0" viewable)
Dot Pitch	.27	.25
Maximum Resolution	1,280 x 1,024	1,600 x 1,280
Recommended Resolution	1,024 x 768 @ 87Hz	1,600 x 1,200 @ 76Hz

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Infolink 171 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE continued

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Project Manager Microsoft Project 98	A powerful, versatile package for tackling even the hairiest projects. Web integration is a welcome plus.	$469, Windows 95 or NT 3.51, 20MB to 40MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Dec. 1997, page 166.
Scheduler Microsoft Outlook 98	Maintains your calendar and to-do list—and handles e-mail. Even better: It's free at www.microsoft.com.	Free for a limited time, Windows 95 or NT, Internet Explorer 4.0. (800) 426-9400. See Feb. 1998, page 124.

REFERENCE AND ENTERTAINMENT CDs

Wait! Don't take that vacation this summer without planning it with Door-to-Door CoPilot—the next best thing to having a navigator riding shotgun.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Business Reference Rand McNally Business Traveler's Suite	The best way, short of a private jet, to get from city to city. It also directs you to businesses, hotels, and restaurants.	$60, Windows 95. (800) 671-5006. See Jan. 1998, page 213.
Home Reference TravRoute Door-to-Door CoPilot	Don't get lost on your vacation. Here's a GPS you can talk to and it talks back. Missed a turn? CoPilot replots the route.	$299, Windows 95. (888) 872-8768 or www.travroute.com. See this issue, page 229.
Entertainment Red Orb Entertainment Riven	What's mightier than Quake II? Myst II—or as it's really known—Riven. It's a faithful sequel to the immersive tale.	$45, Windows 95. (800) 474-0485. See Dec. 1997, page 320.
Entertainment Valley Entertainment Eve: The Music and Art Adventure	A romp through music, art, and a bit of adventure with music man extraordinaire Peter Gabriel.	$40 list price, Windows 95 and Macintosh. (800) 357-5376. See Jan. 1998, page 213.

GRAPHICS SOFTWARE

You're On: Get your documents on the Web—yesterday. PageMaker converts graphics and text to HTML for quick online posting.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Presentation Graphics Microsoft PowerPoint 97	Spend less time learning the software and more time making your point. Best perk: Share your presentations on the Web.	$339 ($109 upgrade) Windows 95 or NT 3.51, 8MB to 16MB of RAM. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 214.
Personal Desktop Publisher Microsoft Publisher 98	New one-click autoconverting to any project format. Add that to Publisher's flexible editing prowess and new art.	$99 ($79 upgrade), Windows 95, 8MB to 16MB of RAM, 40MB hard disk space, CD-ROM. (800) 426-9400. Stay tuned.
Professional Desktop Publisher Adobe PageMaker 6.5	Get your documents on the Web. PageMaker converts any graphic and text to HTML for quick online posting.	$550, Windows 95 or NT, 8MB to 16MB RAM, 26MB hard disk space. (800) 422-3623. See Jan. 1998, page 217.
Business Graphics CorelDraw 8	Whether you design professional ad campaigns or just like to sketch, this is the premier all-in-one graphics toolkit.	$440 ($220 upgrade), 90MHz Pentium, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 16MB RAM. (800) 772-6735. See Dec. 1997, page 170.
Personal Photo Editor Microsoft Picture It 2.0	Have fun with those shoeboxes of old photos: Edit them, store them, or publish them to the Web.	$50, Windows 95 or NT, 16MB RAM, 1MB VRAM, 90MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 223.
Professional Photo Editor Adobe Photoshop 4.0	A digital darkroom for your PC. New to version 4.0 are MMX hooks and built-in Web smarts.	$550, 486 CPU, Windows 95, NT, or 3.1, 16MB RAM, 25MB hard disk space. (800) 492-3623. See Jan. 1998, page 218.
Illustration Software Adobe Illustrator 7.0	The top choice for drawing and prepress work. Need special effects? Check out Macromedia FreeHand 8.	$595 list price, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 16MB RAM, 25MB hard disk space. (800) 649-3875. See Jan. 1998, page 218.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

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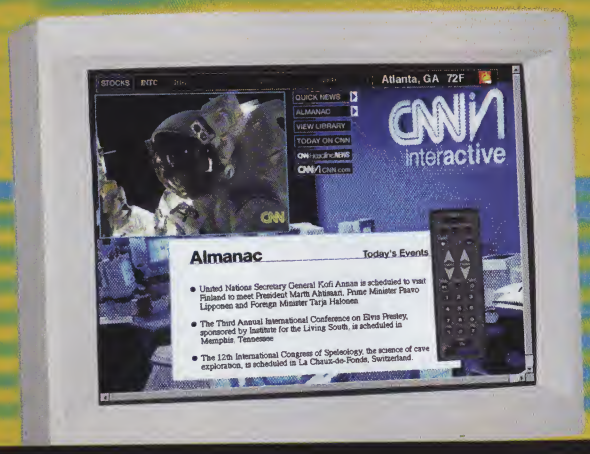

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"The VELOCITY 3D, STB TV PCI, and Intercast are the terrific trio of the television world, bringing you video, TV and information on the small screen." —PC Magazine, March 4, 1997

"The fact remains that TV PCI provides all the features of both a TV tuner card and an inexpensive video-capture card, for about what you might pay for either one. Its high picture quality and versatility make it an excellent buy." —Computer Shopper, April 1997

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Infolink 364 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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TOOLS AND UTILITIES

Low-Maintenance Relationship: Keep your system humming so you can get down to work with these smart system tools.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Windows 95 System Utility Symantec Norton Utilities 3.0 for Windows 95	**Spot system trouble before it spots your data. Download the latest Norton fixes at www.symantec.com.**	$79, Windows 95, 8MB RAM, 35MB hard disk space. (800) 441-7234. See Mar. 1998, page 226.
Windows NT System Utility Symantec Norton Utilities 2.0 for Windows NT	**Keep your servers and workstations in check with the first complete set of system utilities for Windows NT.**	$99, Windows NT 4.0, 16MB RAM. (800) 441-7234. See June 1997, page 130.
Antivirus Software Quarterdeck ViruSweep	**So the interface needs polish. Still ViruSweep provides the best protection from new and undiscovered viruses.**	$40, Windows 3.1 and 95, DOS 5.0, 8MB RAM, 8MB hard disk space. (800) 683-6696. See this issue, page 124.
OCR Software Caere OmniPage Pro 8.0	**Never retype again. OmniPage converts scanned pages into editable text or publishes them to your Web site.**	$499 ($129 for upgrade), Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 16MB RAM, 33MB hard disk space. (800) 654-1187. See Nov. 1997, page 172.
File Utility Inso Corp. Quick View Plus 4.5	**Superman has X-ray vision for peering through walls. You have Quick View Plus for peering into files.**	$49, Windows 3.1, 95, or NT, 4MB RAM, 6MB hard disk space. (800) 333-1395. See Jan. 1998, page 224.
Remote-Control Software Traveling Software LapLink for Windows 95	**Keep your notebook and desktop PCs on speaking terms: Sync files via a cable or dial your desktop from the road.**	$149, 386 CPU, 8MB RAM, 7MB hard disk space. (800) 343-8080. See Jan. 1997, page 156.
Application Development Tool Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0 Professional Edition	**Visualize better custom apps. This version adds dockable toolbars and the ability to edit multiple projects at once.**	$499, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 30MB to 220MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See June 1997, page 125.

WEB BROWSERS AND UTILITIES

Warts and All: It's not perfect, but Microsoft's Internet Explorer 4.0 is still the best browser you can't buy. It's not a bad file manager either.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Web Browser Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.01	**Manage local and network files from the same browser windows you use to surf the Web. The best part? It's free.**	Free, Windows 95 or Windows NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 117.
Internet Utility VitalSigns Software Net.Medic	**Stop guessing why your Web connection is so slow. Let this Internet sleuth show you where your troubles lie.**	$50, (888) 984-8259 or www.vitalsigns.com. See Jan. 1998, page 237.
Newsgroup Reader Forté Agent 1.5	**Sort the gems from the junk with this smart newsreader. For a gratis pared-down version, check out Free Agent.**	$29, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, or Windows NT. www.forteinc.com. Stay tuned.
Security/Encryption Network Associates PGP for Personal Privacy 5.5	**You wouldn't let a stranger read your mail. Why take a chance with e-mail? Secure it from snoops with PGP.**	$39, public-key cryptography, digital signatures. (408) 988-3832. See Oct. 1997, page 172.

WEB SEARCH ENGINES AND SERVICES

Mind Reader: Give your browser a head start. PeakSoft's $79 NetMagnet has a smart cache that preloads pages and links you need before you click.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Search Engine Wired Digital HotBot	**So the neon interface is a little obnoxious. It still ferrets out hard-to-find answers in record time.**	Free, www.hotbot.com. See Jan. 1998, page 238.
Web Accelerator PeakSoft NetMagnet	**A complete Web companion tool suite that includes PeakJet, which looks ahead by loading text and links *before* you need them.**	$79, $49 upgrade for registered PeakJet users. (888) 377- 7325. Stay tuned.

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WEB SEARCH ENGINES AND SERVICES continued

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
National Online Service America Online	Still the world's most popular and useful online service. Can't stand the wait? Sign up with an ISP.	$21.95 per month for unlimited access, $9.95 per month for unlimited AOL access. (800) 827-6364. See Jan. 1998, page 238.
National Internet Service Provider UUNet Technologies	With more connection options than most, UUNet serves up all the bandwidth your business needs. Just in: UUFax.	$30 per month for 25 hours, Web hosting starts at $300 per month. (800) 488-6383. See Jan. 1998, page 240.
News Service Wall Street Journal Interactive Edition	Get the full contents of the best business daily plus company research, real-time stock quotes, and portfolio tracking.	$49 per year, $29 per year for *Wall Street Journal* subscribers. www.wsj.com. See Jan. 1998, page 240.
Financial Service E*Trade	Reason No. 57 to give your broker the boot: E*Trade delivers all the same services without the shiny suit.	$14.95 per trade for up to 5,000 shares. (800) 387-2331. www.etrade.com. See Jan. 1998, page 242.

WEB COMMUNICATIONS

Save Big: Slash overseas mail costs and cut your wait—send documents via fax on the Web. Batch processing beats stuffing envelopes too.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Internet E-mail Microsoft Outlook Express	The best e-mail manager also happens to be the one you get for free with Internet Explorer. We'll take it.	Free, Windows 95 or NT, Macintosh, Internet access. (800) 426-9400. Stay tuned.
Internet Phone Microsoft NetMeeting 2.1	Have face-to-face meetings without breaking out breath mints. The best part? It's free as part of Internet Explorer.	Free, Windows 95 or Windows NT. (800) 426-9400. Stay tuned.
Internet Fax FaxSav Internet Suite of Services	Save big on international faxing with FaxSav. Try the beta of the new Fax Launcher Pro for even more options at www.faxsav.com.	Free for software, 15 cents per page for domestic faxes. (800) 828-7115. See Sept. 1997, page 188.
Internet Videoconferencing White Pine Software CU-SeeMe 3.1	Get the newest version of the best videoconferencing software around, now with standards support.	$79, $69 download at www.cuseeme.com. (800) 241-7463. See Jan. 1998, page 237.

WEB DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Cheat Sheet: Designing a Web site doesn't have to hurt. Adobe's PageMill 3.0 offers interesting features, but can't match the wizards in FrontPage 98.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Web Publisher Microsoft FrontPage 98	The only Web publishing suite that wraps hand-holding wizards around powerful site creation and management tools.	$149 ($55 for upgrade), Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0. (800) 426-9400. See Nov. 1997, page 189.
Web Server Software Microsoft Internet Information Server 3.0	The fastest NT Web server software you can find, plus the bonus of a free version of NT Server 4.0.	Free for NT Server users, Windows NT 4.0, 486 CPU, 16MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 246.
Site Management Utility Tetranet Software Linkbot 3.5	If you have just one site maintenance utility, this should be it. Watch for Wisebot, a task automation utility.	$250, Windows 95 or NT. (888) 245-5550. See Jan. 1998, page 242.
Commerce Server Microsoft Site Server Enterprise Edition 2.0	Everything you need to serve up a super-selling site on the Web in a matter of hours. Really.	$4,999, Windows NT 4.0. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 246.
Web Animation Software Macromedia Flash 2	Want to get your Web site moving without making it too big? Flash 2 creates interactive animations in as little as 3K.	$299, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 486 CPU, 16MB RAM. (800) 945-9075. See Jan. 1998, page 244.
Java Development Visual Café for Java 2.0 Web Development	Build applets any way you want. Get into brute-force scripting, or crank out applets in minutes using Café's visual tools.	$100, Windows 95 or NT, 90MHz Pentium, 24MB RAM, 30MB hard disk space. (800) 441-7234. See Jan. 1998, page 244.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

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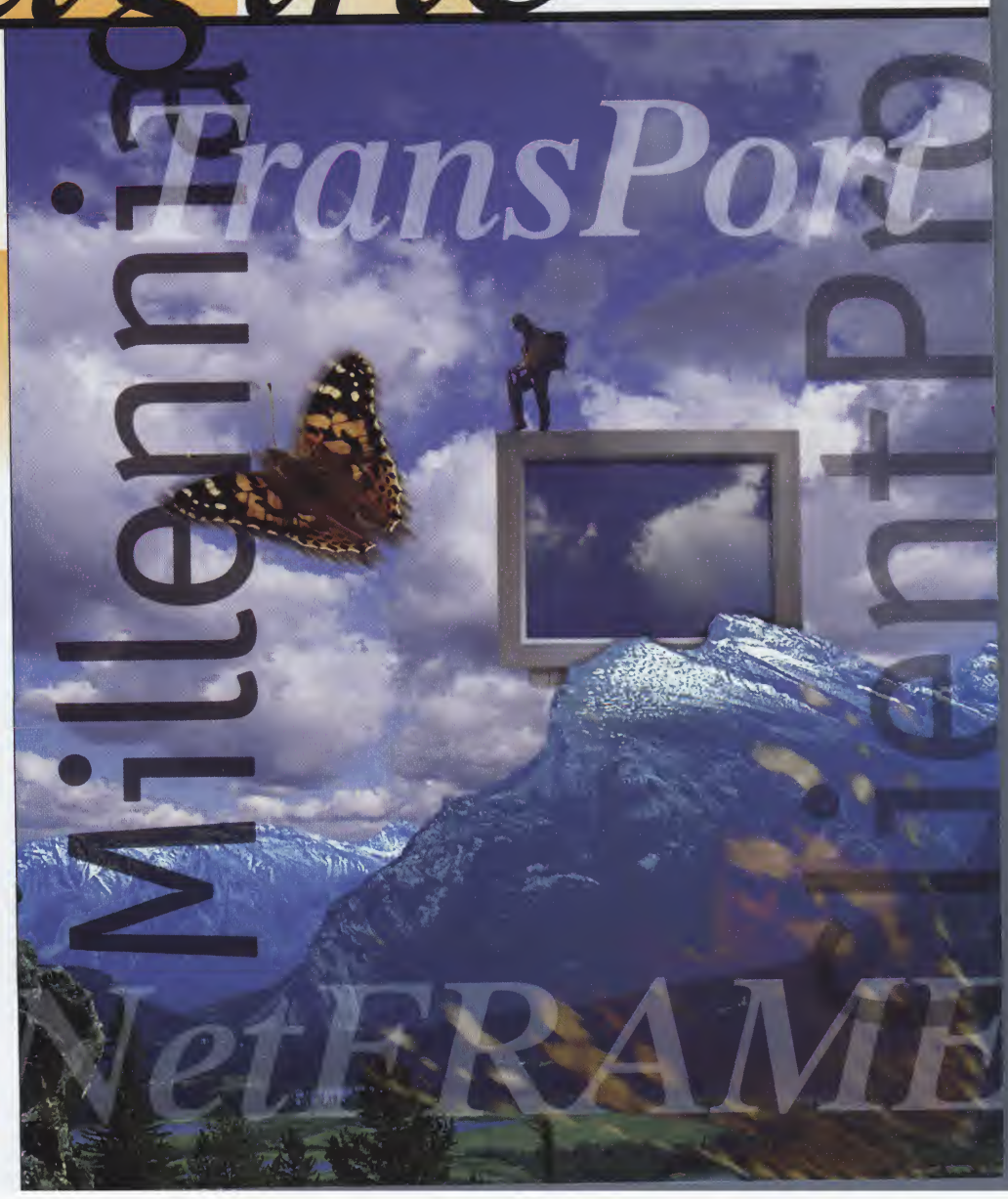
Imagine the things you'll do. The places you'll go. Imagine knowing no boundaries. Embracing all possibilities. Micron computers. Imagine that.



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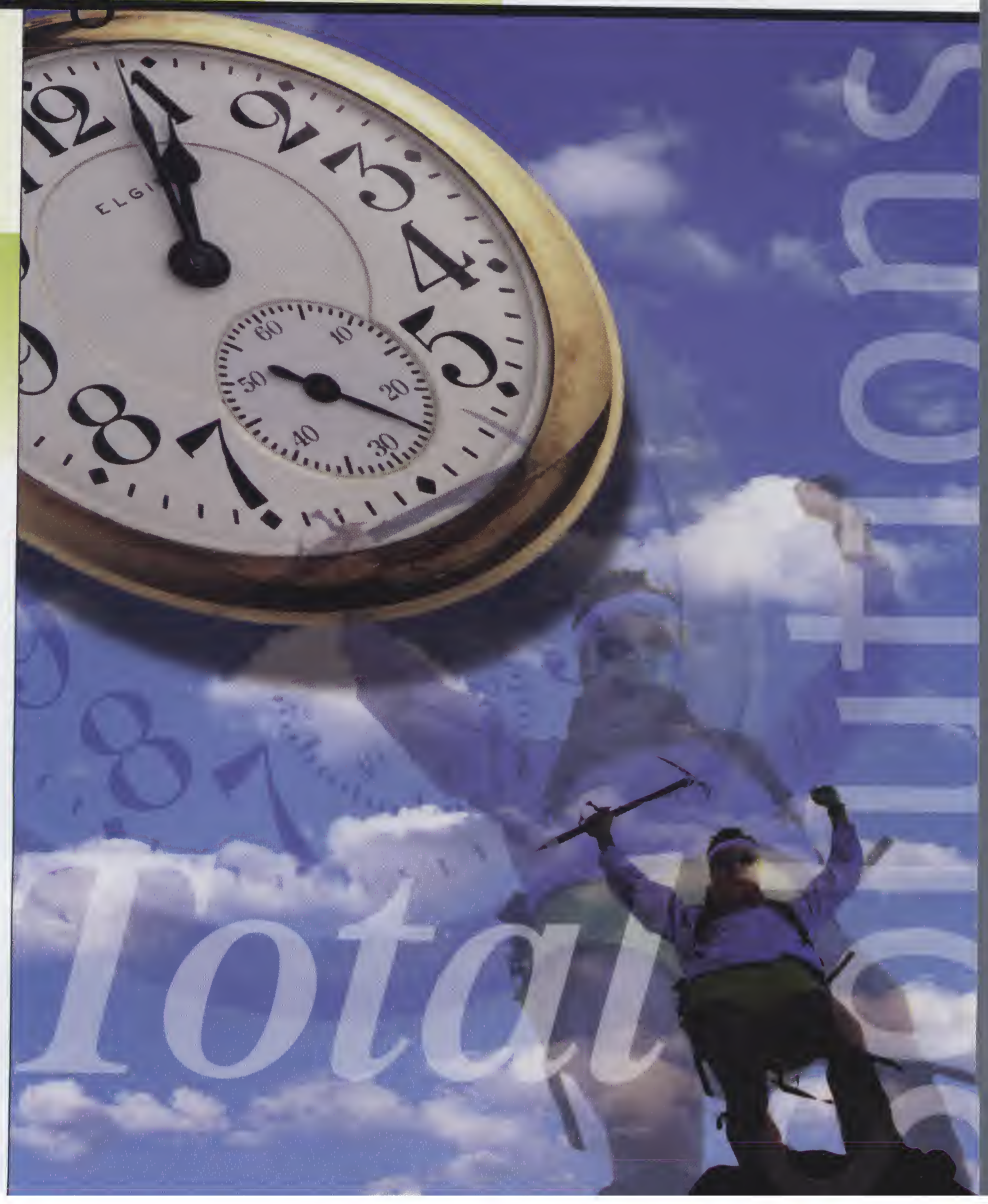
that *winning* is everything.



MMX™
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pentium® PROCESSOR

TransPort XKE Feb. '98

Powerdigm XSU Jan. '98

Millennia XKU 300 Sept. '97

Millennia XKU #4 Power Desktop Jan. '98

Millennia XKU Jan. '98

Millennia Pro2 200 Sept. '97

TransPort XKE 166 Aug. '97

Customer Service, Support & Reliability Nov. '97

TransPort XKE Oct. '97

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Catch the brass ring. We've created some of the finest, most dependable, most innovative computer systems imaginable. But you don't have to take our word for it. Listen to the experts. Micron™ systems are consistently recognized for impeccable performance, reliability and value. Last year, we won over 200 awards, recommendations and stellar reviews from your favorite industry publications, like *PC Computing* and *PC Magazine*. And the 1998 awards are already pouring in.

Distinct possibilities. Picture this. Micron's sales representatives will custom configure a system perfect for you, while our award-winning technical support dream team is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. And our products are covered by some of the best warranties in the business.

Dream on. It's not by accident *Home PC* readers ranked Micron number one for overall reliability and technical support last year. One look at Micron, and you'll clearly see the best PC values in the industry. Imagine how the competition pales next to Micron's unsurpassed performance, high technology and aboveboard support. Imagine everything you want to accomplish, and everything we've already achieved at Micron. And then imagine what we can do together.

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With the award-winning Micron TransPort, it's all yours.

Portable Solutions

Higher power. The Micron™ TransPort® XKE has made a name for itself as an incomparable, high-performance portable PC. It's won three *PC Magazine* Editor's Choice awards — and with good reason. The TransPort XKE sets the pace for high-end portable power. The XKE features an Intel 233MHz or 266MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, and is upgradable to 192MB EDO RAM. Micron gives you the only portable with award-winning Dragon NaturallySpeaking Personal voice recognition software standard. The TransPort XKE has never been faster or more powerful. And, it's never been more affordable.

Light and bright. The Micron TransPort VLX puts more power in a no-nonsense portable. Named *PC Computing's* 1997 Workhorse of the Year, the TransPort VLX sets a new standard in portables. It's flexible. Lightweight. And it's powered by an Intel 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology. You can get it all for an unbeatable price, because the TransPort VLX starts at a mere $1,399! Call us now and imagine the places you'll go.

TransPort VLX

166MHz Intel Pentium processor with MMX technology
16MB EDO RAM
2.1GB hard drive
12.1 TFT SVGA, 800 x 600 display

256KB L2 pipeline burst cache
PCI bus with 128-bit graphics accelerator
MPEG compatible
Zoomed Video ready
Microphone and 16-bit stereo sound
20X modular CD-ROM drive
2-way infrared port
Modular floppy drive
Li-Ion battery
Microsoft® Windows® 95 and MS® Plus!
Choice of a Micron Portable Software Solutions Pak
5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty

$1,399
Bus. lease **$49/mo.**

TransPort XKE

233MHz Intel Pentium processor with MMX technology
32MB EDO RAM
3GB removable hard drive
13.3" TFT XGA display

512KB pipeline burst cache
2 modular expansion bays
2 infrared ports, S-Video, NTSC, game, USB ports
20X CD-ROM drive with AutoPlay™ technology
128-bit, 2MB DRAM graphics
CardBus and Zoomed Video
16-bit stereo sound and microphone
56Kbps fax/modem*
Pick-a-Point™ dual pointing devices
Custom nylon carrying case
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Choice of a Micron Portable Software Solutions Pak
Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
Dragon NaturallySpeaking Personal voice recognition software
5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty

$2,699
Bus. lease **$92/mo.**

* Maximum transmission speed of up to 56Kbps when downloading data and 33.6Kbps when uploading. However, actual performance is dependent upon numerous factors and observed transfer rates may be less than the maximum potentials.

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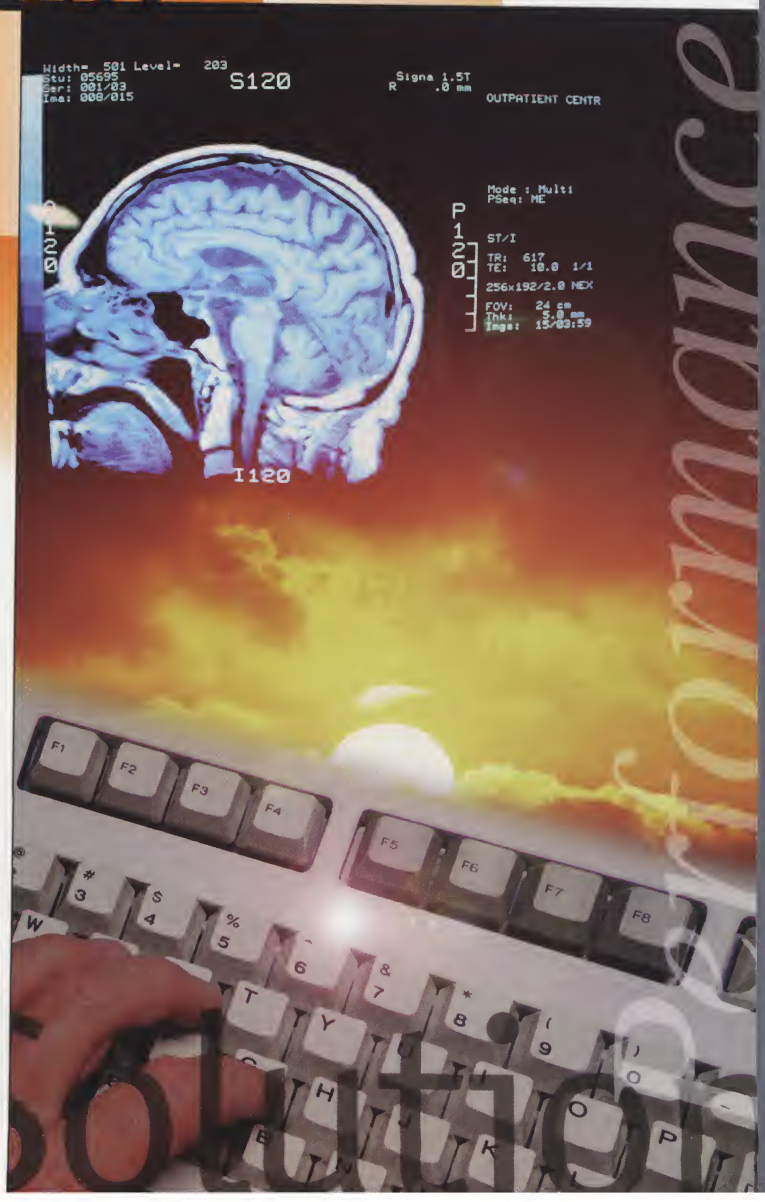

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Ladder of success. Our Micron™ Millennia® Office systems are customized for your business needs. Delivering higher reliability and uncompromising performance, this business PC features the latest Intel processors and operating systems, a high refresh rate and a longer product life. Plus a network interface card and Microsoft's Office '97 Small Business Essential software pak.

Home sweet home. Whether your home computer is for business or for fun, our Millennia Personal line delivers high-tech, high-demand performance. Graphic-intense applications run beautifully, with memory and power to spare. A *PC World* Best Buy, the Millennia Personal includes the Microsoft® Home Essentials software bundle, modem and Zip drive. And if you order a Millennia system now, you'll receive a coupon book worth over $200 of savings on leading Microsoft products. Millennia systems start at just $1,599. Imagine that.

You can also get the Millennia with DVD system for unsurpassed multimedia performance, dazzling DVD technology, incredible sound, and brilliant graphics. All with a smooth, dreamy performance. Perfect for "edutainment" software. Perfect for cutting-edge 3D gaming. Perfect for you.

Millennia 233 Value Bundle

Intel 233MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
32MB SDRAM
3.2GB Ultra ATA hard drive
15" Micron 500FGx, .28dp monitor (13.7" display)

82430TX chip set
512KB internal cache, 2MB flash BIOS
3.5" floppy drive
24X EIDE variable speed CD-ROM drive
PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 4MB EDO DRAM
56Kbps data/fax modem*
32 voice wavetable stereo sound
104-key enhanced keyboard
Microsoft IntelliMouse™, USB connections
Stereo speakers
Microsoft Windows® 95 and MS® Plus!
Microsoft Home Essentials
5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ limited warranty

$1,599
Bus. lease **$56/mo.**

Millennia 300 Office Edition

Intel 300MHz Pentium II processor (features MMX technology)
32MB SDRAM
4.0GB Ultra ATA hard drive
15" Micron 500FGx, .28dp monitor (13.7" display)

82440LX chip set
512KB internal cache, 2MB flash BIOS
3.5" floppy
32X EIDE variable speed CD-ROM drive
128-bit AGP 3D video with 4MB SGRAM
10/100 PCI network adapter
32 voice wavetable stereo sound, stereo speakers
104-key enhanced keyboard
Microsoft IntelliMouse, USB connections
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

$1,999
Bus. lease **$70/mo.**

* Maximum transmission speed of up to 56Kbps when downloading data and 33.6Kbps when uploading. However, actual performance is dependent upon numerous factors and observed transfer rates may be less than the maximum potentials.

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Business Solutions

Reach for the stars. Our network-ready ClientPro® desktops give you everything you need in a business PC — at some of the lowest prices ever. The ClientPro runs the gamut from no-nonsense desktop PCs to top-of-the-line, remotely-managed PCs. The ClientPro lowers ownership costs and offers easy network integration — all with remote and local management features. And all with Micron reliability. Our state-of-the-art engineering and management features make this the PC built for success.

One and only. Now, Micron offers Microsoft® Windows NT® standard on all enterprise products, so you'll get a virtually crash-proof, highly secure operating system. Network support's a snap, and your network will be more efficient. Reliable. Powerful. And you can be confident network security won't be compromised.

Safe and sound. Micron™ NetFRAME® servers promise network integrity and manageability. Built from the ground up, you get the hardware and software you want, plus on-site technical support if you need it.

The sky's the limit. We build award-winning workgroup, departmental and enterprise servers — no job is too big or too small. Imagine your company's growth, security and potential. The possibilities are endless.

ClientPro 233

Intel 233MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
32MB SDRAM
3.2GB SMART Ultra ATA hard drive
15" Micron 500Lx, .28dp color monitor (13.7" display)

512KB pipeline burst cache, DMI 2.0 compliant, 2MB flash BIOS
24X variable speed ATAPI CD-ROM drive
2MB EDO DRAM graphics accelerator
Network adapter with 3Com Remote Wake-up™ capability
Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0
5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ limited warranty

$1,499
Bus. lease **$53/mo.**

NetFRAME MV5001

Intel 233MHz Pentium II processor
64MB ECC SDRAM
4GB Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drive
NOS support (1 first-year incident resolution), 7x24

512KB integrated cache in SEC package
9 expansion slots: 6 PCI, 2 ISA, 1 shared ISA/PCI
Dual integrated Symbios Ultra Wide SCSI-3 controller
Integrated Symbios narrow SCSI controller
Intel EtherExpress™ Pro 100 network adapter
20X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive
I_2O-ready via embedded Intel i960-RD
5 internal, hot-pluggable, hard drive array bays (upgradable to 10)
1 360-watt hot-pluggable power supply standard (upgradable to 3 for added redundancy)
Intel LANDesk® Server Manager 2.8
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty
1-year next-business-day on-site service†

$3,799
Bus. lease **$121/mo.**

†On-site service for NetFRAME LV2001 and MV5001 servers is provided by Digital Equipment Corporation and is optional.

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Draw your own conclusions.
Paint your own canvas.
Mark your own words.
All with the Micron Powerdigm®.

Put your head in the clouds. The award-winning Powerdigm workstation has become a coveted workstation for the most discerning user. The Powerdigm Xsu offers the perfect balance of performance, power and ingenuity. So perfect, *PC Magazine* named it the 1997 Workstation of the Year.

A masterwork station. This PC powerhouse, featuring Micron's own Samurai™ core logic, delivers 64-bit, 66MHz PCI bus performance, and the unbridled power of dual Pentium® II processors. Powerdigm is your quintessential, scalable graphics solution. You'll render high-demand graphics, financial programs or CAD applications without boundaries. And with more than 400MB per second throughput, bottlenecks are a thing of the past. Called "the most exciting PC on the planet" by *PC Magazine* — none of our competitors have even come close. Call us and see why. Imagine a work of art. A stroke of genius. And then imagine the power you'll have.

Powerdigm Xsu

Intel 300MHz Pentium II processor (features MMX™ technology)
64MB ECC SDRAM
4GB Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drive
19" Hitachi SuperScan CM751 (18" display) .26dp color monitor

Supports dual processors
Samurai chip set
512KB pipeline burst cache, flash BIOS
Memory upgradable to 1GB ECC SDRAM
Supports IDE Ultra ATA and multiple Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drives
32X variable speed SCSI CD-ROM drive
Fire GL 1000 pro 8MB 66MHz PCI Open GL Professional 3D accelerator
3Com Fast EtherLink XL 10/100 PCI network adapter
Wavetable stereo sound with speakers
Microsoft® Windows NT® Workstation
DMI, software and hardware management support
5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ limited warranty

$3,599
Bus. lease **$114/mo.**

Powerdigm Xsu

Dual Intel 333MHz Pentium II processors
128MB ECC SDRAM
4GB Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drive
21" Hitachi SuperScan CM801 (20" display) .26dp monitor

Samurai chip set
512KB pipeline burst cache, flash BIOS
Memory upgradable to 1GB ECC SDRAM
Iomega Jaz SCSI drive with 1GB removable cartridge
Supports IDE Ultra ATA and multiple Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drives
32X variable speed SCSI CD-ROM drive
Fire GL 4000 15MB 3DRAM/16MB CDRAM
3Com Fast EtherLink XL 10/100 PCI network adapter
Optional support for dual monitors
Wavetable stereo sound with speakers
Microsoft Windows NT Workstation
DMI, software and hardware management support
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

$6,658
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Performance Desktop Solutions

Millennia® 233 Value Bundle

Intel 233MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
32MB SDRAM
3.2GB Ultra ATA hard drive
15" Micron 500FGx, .28dp monitor (13.7" display)

82430TX chip set
512KB internal cache, 2MB flash BIOS
3.5" floppy drive
24X EIDE variable speed CD-ROM drive
PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 4MB EDO DRAM
56Kbps data/fax modem*
32 voice wavetable stereo sound
104-key enhanced keyboard
Microsoft® IntelliMouse™, USB connections
Stereo speakers
Microsoft Windows® 95 and MS® Plus!
Microsoft Home Essentials
5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ limited warranty

$1,599
Bus. lease **$56/mo.**

Millennia 300 Personal Edition

Intel 300MHz Pentium II processor (features MMX technology)
32MB SDRAM
4.0GB Ultra ATA hard drive
15" Micron 500FGx, .28dp monitor (13.7" display)

82440LX chip set
512KB internal cache, 2MB flash BIOS
3.5" floppy
32X EIDE variable speed CD-ROM drive
128-bit AGP 3D video with 4MB SGRAM
32 voice wavetable stereo sound, stereo speakers
56Kbps data/fax modem*
104-key enhanced keyboard
Microsoft IntelliMouse, USB connections
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Microsoft Home Essentials
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

$2,099
Bus. lease **$73/mo.**

Millennia 300 Office Edition

Intel 300MHz Pentium II processor (features MMX technology)
32MB SDRAM
4.0GB Ultra ATA hard drive
15" Micron 500FGx, .28dp monitor (13.7" display)

82440LX chip set
512KB internal cache, 2MB flash BIOS
3.5" floppy
32X EIDE variable speed CD-ROM drive
128-bit AGP 3D video with 4MB SGRAM
10/100 PCI network adapter
32 voice wavetable stereo sound, stereo speakers
104-key enhanced keyboard
Microsoft IntelliMouse, USB connections
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

$1,999
Bus. lease **$70/mo.**

Millennia 333 Personal DVD Edition

Intel 333MHz Pentium II processor (features MMX technology)
64MB SDRAM
8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive
19" Hitachi Superscan CM751 monitor (18.0" display)

82440LX chip set
512KB internal cache, 2MB flash BIOS
Integrated 100MB Iomega Zip drive
3.5" floppy
DVD-ROM drive and PCI decoder card
128-bit AGP 3D video with 4MB SGRAM
AWE 64 ISA sound card
Stereo speakers with subwoofer
56Kbps x2 data/fax modem*
104-key enhanced keyboard
Microsoft IntelliMouse, USB connections
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Microsoft Home Essentials
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

$2,999
Bus. lease **$102/mo.**

* Maximum transmission speed of up to 56Kbps when downloading data and 33.6Kbps when uploading. However, actual performance is dependent upon numerous factors and observed transfer rates may be less than the maximum potentials.

Portable Solutions

System Configurations

TransPort® XKE

233MHz Intel Pentium processor with MMX technology
32MB EDO RAM
3GB removable hard drive
13.3" TFT XGA display

512KB pipeline burst cache
2 modular expansion bays
2 infrared ports, S-Video, NTSC, game, USB ports
20X CD-ROM drive with AutoPlay™ technology
128-bit, 2MB DRAM graphics
CardBus and Zoomed Video
16-bit stereo sound and microphone
56Kbps fax/modem*
Pick-a-Point™ dual pointing devices
Custom nylon carrying case
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Choice of a Micron Portable Software Solutions Pak
Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
Dragon NaturallySpeaking Personal voice recognition software
5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty

$2,699
Bus. lease **$92/mo.**

TransPort VLX

166MHz Intel Pentium processor with MMX technology
16MB EDO RAM
2.1GB hard drive
12.1 TFT SVGA, 800 x 600 display

256KB L2 pipeline burst cache
PCI bus with 128-bit graphics accelerator
MPEG compatible
Zoomed Video ready
Microphone and 16-bit stereo sound
20X modular CD-ROM drive
2-way infrared port
Modular floppy drive
Li-Ion battery
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Choice of a Micron Portable Software Solutions Pak
5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty

$1,399
Bus. lease **$49/mo.**

TransPort XKE

266MHz Intel Pentium processor with MMX technology
32MB EDO RAM
3GB removable hard drive
13.3" TFT XGA display

512KB pipeline burst cache
2 modular expansion bays
2 infrared ports, S-Video, NTSC, game, USB ports
20X CD-ROM drive with AutoPlay technology
128-bit, 2MB DRAM graphics
CardBus and Zoomed Video
16-bit stereo sound and microphone
56Kbps fax/modem*
Pick-a-Point dual pointing devices
Custom nylon carrying case
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Choice of a Micron Portable Software Solutions Pak
Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
Dragon NaturallySpeaking Personal voice recognition software
5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty

$3,199
Bus. lease **$109/mo.**

TransPort VLX

166MHz Intel Pentium processor with MMX technology
40MB EDO RAM
2.1GB hard drive
12.1 TFT SVGA, 800 x 600 display
56Kbps fax/modem
Microsoft Office Small Business Edition

256KB L2 pipeline burst cache
128-bit graphics accelerator
MPEG compatible
Zoomed Video ready
Microphone and 16-bit stereo sound
20X modular CD-ROM drive
2-way infrared port
Modular floppy drive
Li-Ion battery
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Choice of a Micron Portable Software Solutions Pak
5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty

$1,899
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Business Solutions

NetFRAME® LV2001

Intel 233MHz Pentium II processor
32MB ECC SDRAM
4GB Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drive
NOS support
(1 first-year incident resolution), 7x24

512KB integrated cache in SEC package
ECC SDRAM option (4 DIMM slots)
5 expansion slots: 4PCI, 1 ISA
Integrated Adaptec PCI Ultra Wide SCSI-3 controller
Intel EtherExpress™ Pro 100 network adapter
20X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive
Upgradable to 36GB storage
Intel LANDesk® Server Manager 2.8
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty
1-year next-business-day on-site service†

$2,399
Bus. lease **$84/mo.**

NetFRAME MV5001

Intel 233MHz Pentium II processor
64MB ECC SDRAM
4GB Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drive
NOS support
(1 first-year incident resolution), 7x24

512KB integrated cache in SEC package
9 expansion slots: 6 PCI, 2 ISA, 1 shared ISA/PCI
Dual integrated Symbios Ultra Wide SCSI-3 controller
Integrated Symbios narrow SCSI controller
Intel EtherExpress Pro 100 network adapter
20X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive
I_2O-ready via embedded Intel i960-RD
5 internal, hot-pluggable, hard drive array bays (upgradable to 10)
1 360-watt hot-pluggable power supply standard (upgradable to 3 for added redundancy)
Intel LANDesk Server Manager 2.8
5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ limited warranty
1-year next-business-day on-site service†

$3,799
Bus. lease **$121/mo.**

ClientPro® 166 Base

Intel 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology

Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

Monitor not included

Starting at
$999

ClientPro 233

Intel 233MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
32MB SDRAM
3.2GB SMART Ultra ATA hard drive
15" Micron 500Lx, .28dp color monitor (13.7" display)

512KB pipeline burst cache, DMI 2.0 compliant, 2MB flash BIOS
24X variable speed ATAPI CD-ROM drive
2MB EDO DRAM graphics accelerator
Network adapter with 3Com Remote Wake-up™ capability
Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

$1,499
Bus. lease **$53/mo.**

ClientPro 266

Intel 266MHz Pentium II processor (features MMX technology)
64MB SDRAM
3.2GB SMART Ultra ATA hard drive
17" Micron 700FGx, .26dp (16" display)

512KB internal L2 secondary cache, DMI 2.0 compliant, 2MB flash BIOS
24X variable speed ATAPI CD-ROM drive
4MB AGP 3D video
Network adapter with 3Com Remote Wake-up capability
Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

$2,049
Bus. lease **$72/mo.**

†On-site service for NetFRAME LV2001 and MV5001 servers is provided by Digital Equipment Corporation and is optional.

MICRON POWER℠ WARRANTY

- 5-year limited warranty on microprocessor and main memory
- 3-year limited parts-only system warranty (1-year for TransPort systems)
- 1-, 2- or 3-year optional on-site service agreement for Micron desktop and server systems
- 30 days of free Micron-supplied software support for Micron desktop systems; 3 optional network operating system incident resolutions included for Micron server systems
- 30-day money back policy
- 24-hour technical support

The foregoing is subject to and qualified by Micron's standard limited warranties and terms and conditions of sale. Terms and conditions of sale may vary for specific configurations. Copies of the limited warranties may be obtained on our Web site or by calling Micron.

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Toll-free from Canada: 800-708-1758
Toll-free from Puerto Rico: 800-708-1756
International Sales: 208-893-8970
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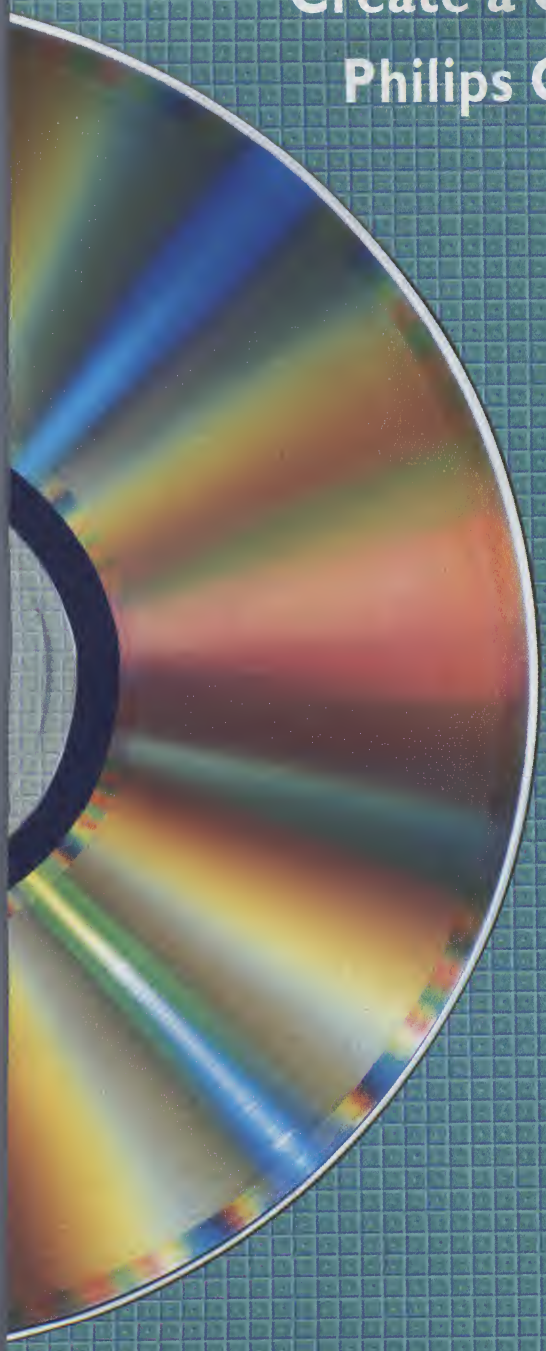

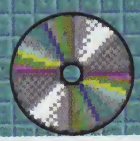

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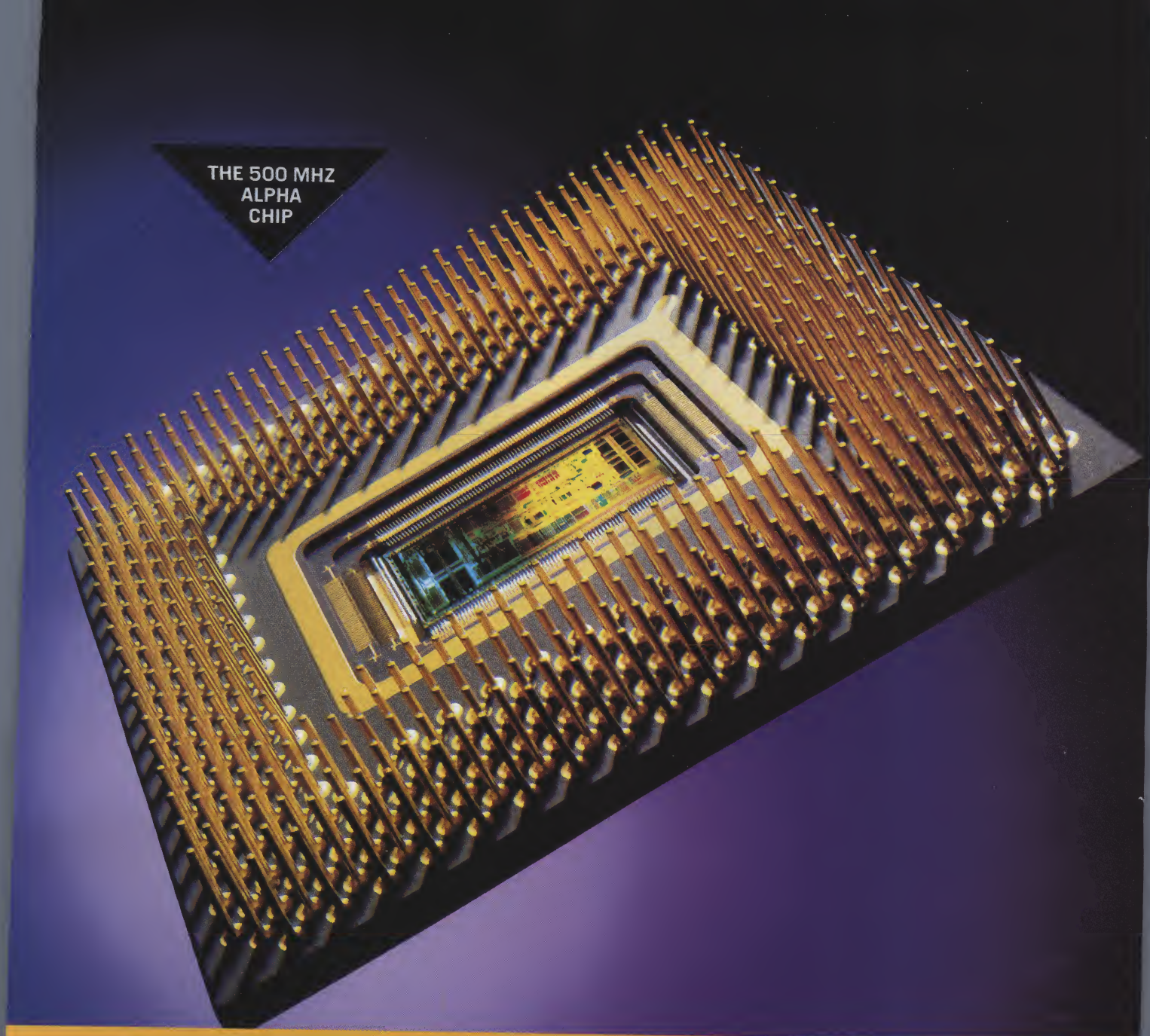

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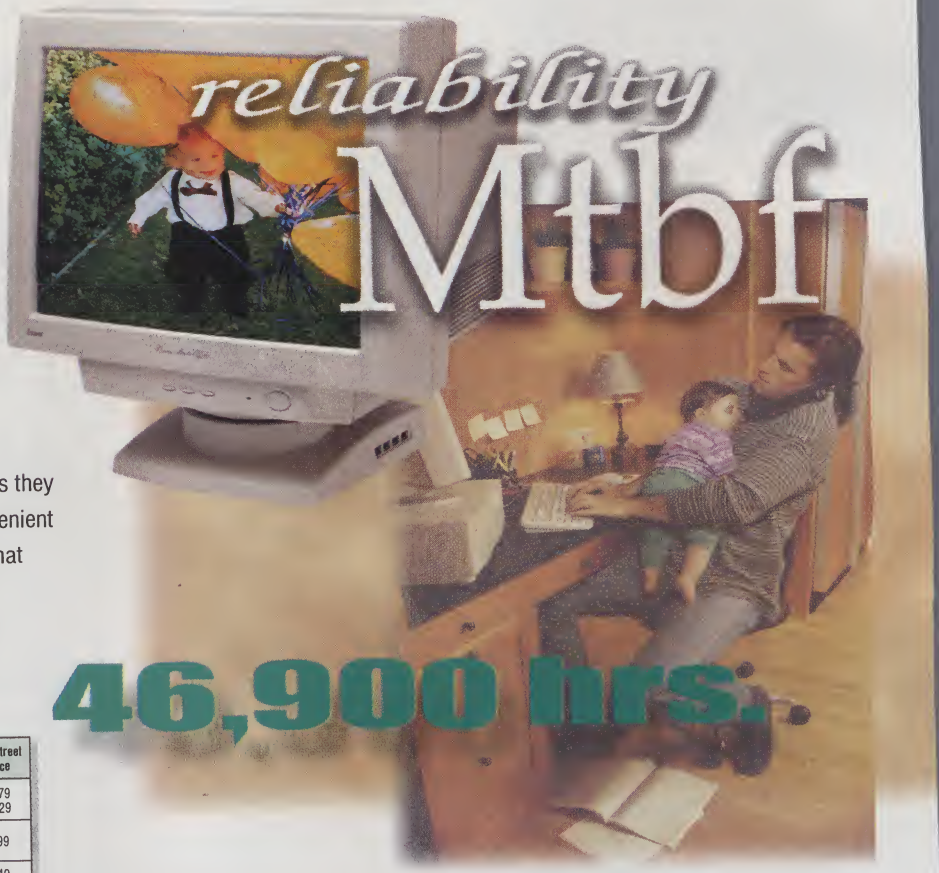

Model/ Viewable Area	Dot Pitch/ CRT Type	Max. Horizontal Scan Rate	Max. Resolution	Est. Street Price
VisionMaster Pro 500 (19.5" VIS) VisionMaster 500 (19.5" VIS)	0.28mm/AG 0.27mm/dp	110kHz	1800 x 1440 @ 74Hz	$1379 $1329
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VisionMaster Pro 17 (16.1" VIS) VisionMaster 17 (16.1" VIS)	0.25mm/AG 0.26mm/dp	92kHz 86kHz	1600 x 1200@74Hz 1600 x 1200@69Hz	$649 $589

*Monitor shown with optional USB hub. ($130 ESP)

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PC Magazine Best of 1997 — January 6, 1998 VisionMaster Pro 17

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ComputerLife — *Perfect Five-Star Rating* November 1997 VisionMaster Pro 17

MacWorld — *Performance & Technical Excellence* March 1997 VisionMaster Pro 21

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PC World Best Buy — *Six Time Winner* July 1996, Jan 1997, March 1997, July 1997, Sept 1997, Jan 1998 VisionMaster Pro 17

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Software Baron

He was the richest man in the world. His competitors called him ruthless. His employees worked 12-hour days. He built a state-of-the-art 64-room mansion with inspirational slogans on the walls ("The Gods Send Thread for the Web Begun"). He promised to give his fortune away, and helped fund libraries all across the country. And he made his money by exploiting someone else's technology. The technology in this case was Bessemer's blast furnace. The rich guy was steel baron Andrew Carnegie. If you thought it was Bill Gates, you were close. But these days Carnegie is revered, while Gates is getting slammed. And though Carnegie wasn't exactly a choirboy when it came to roughing up and gunning down striking employees, he understood the need to spend big bucks buying public favor. Gates just doesn't get it.

Paul Somerson

Deep Pockets Yeah, sure, he's doled out tens of millions to various universities and charities, and more than $500 million to the Gates Library Foundation and the William H. Gates Foundation (plus another $200 million in Microsoft software—insert your own joke here). It's not enough.

The public doesn't attack figures it loves. But right now the whole planet is arguing about whether a browser Microsoft copied from Mosaic should be part of an operating system copied from Apple. Yes, of course it should—a browser is just an external file manager, and the Web is part of everything. And yes, they *should* be able to put a cheeseburger in the OS if they want. Even the *New York Times* got confused about what was Windows and what was the browser, and had to run a public correction.

And yes, Microsoft is a bully. But it's getting zapped because it won, because its competitors are envious, and because the public dislikes but is secretly fascinated by extreme wealth. Breaking the company apart won't fix anything, and stifling it will be bad for the whole industry—

Slimeball senators know voters back in the **trailer camps** will cheer when they see the rich guy **squirm.**

nobody wants the government coming anywhere near our PCs, or (*shudder*) dictating what can and can't be part of our OS. But Microsoft does need to be more responsible and produce software that's far easier and more bulletproof. Enough already.

The only reason people watched Bill at the Senate hearings is his immense fortune. Reporters were arguing whether he was worth $45 or $46 billion. At these altitudes, a couple billion more or less doesn't mean diddly. It's bigger than the economies of *blah blah blah,* enough to buy trainloads of *yadda yadda,* and if stacked in dollar bills would rise to the level of *who cares*?

Slimeball senators know the voters back in the trailer camps will cheer when they see the rich guy squirm. The only thing that would have been better for these congressional creeps is if Gates had shown up in a sharkskin suit, twirling a handlebar mustache and smoking a big cigar.

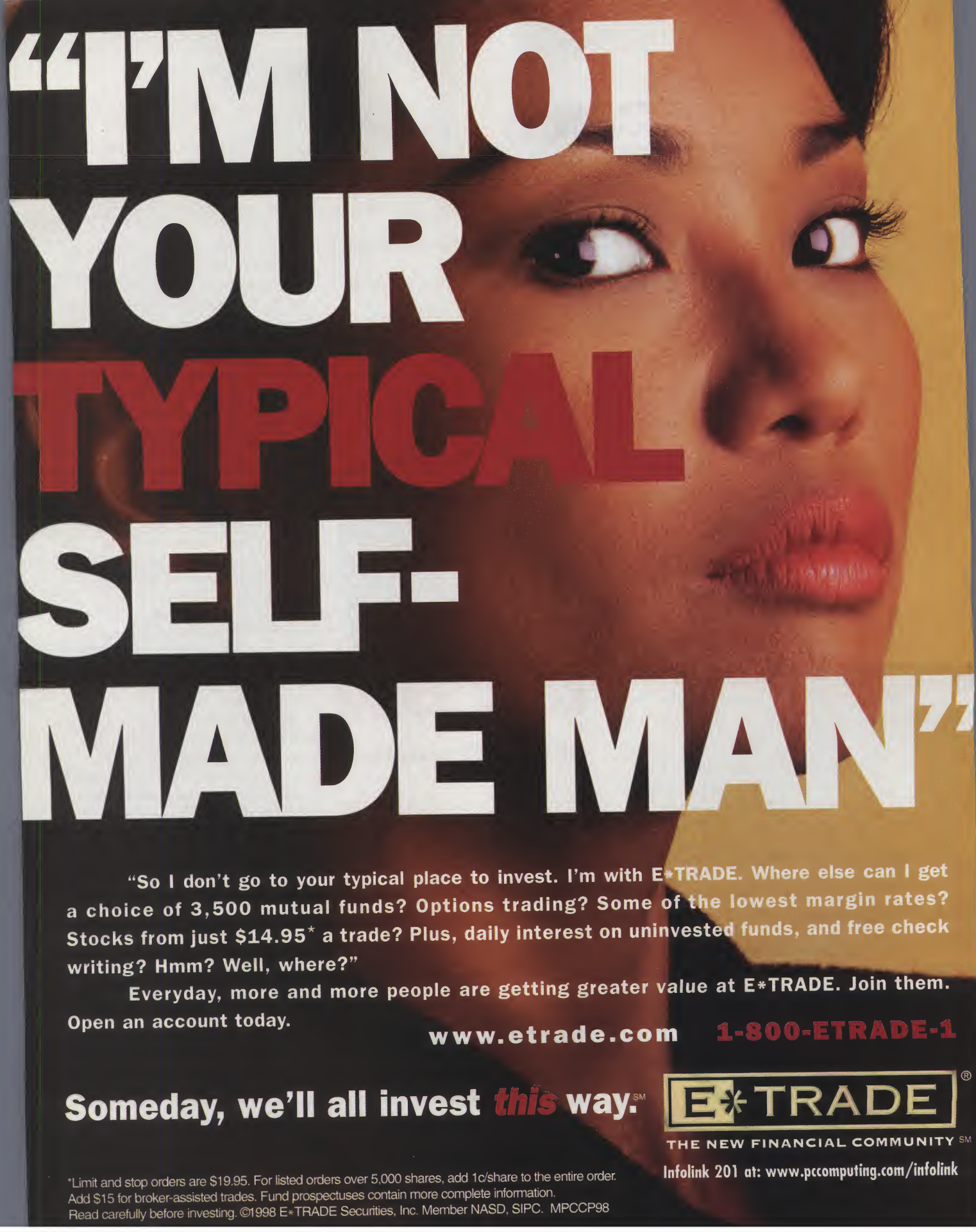
Every publicity hound in the country except maybe Jesse Jackson has condemned him for being such a success. Senator Herb Kohl (D–Wisconsin) even dredged up the old leftie class-warfare by suggesting that Microsoft was making too much profit. And Senator Orin Hatch (R–Novell) pontificated about how bad monopolies are.

Standard Time Well, here they're not. Scott McNealy whined that the only thing he'd rather own than Microsoft's OS money machine was English. But that's the point. English is the international language of movies and television, of commerce, of technology, and of industries like aviation. English isn't perfect, but it's necessary to have standards. If a Slobovian Airways jet is about to T-bone one from Air Bulgaria over Paris, the tower warns them both in English. Look at how pathetic today's software is when all it has to work with is Windows—imagine the chaos and lunacy if developers and users had to deal with multiple OSs.

Carnegie funded 2,811 libraries. Gates needs to create something monumental and extraordinarily expensive that all the do-gooders will coo over, and soon. After that he's untouchable.

E-mail somerson@zd.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PERRY



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Going Once, Going Twice . . .

Picture yourself as Barry Diller of cable TV's Home Shopping Network: pudgy, bald, boring. Rich enough to buy Peru. Anyone who hangs a shingle in cyberspace should think about where the next Diller lurks. Online auctions are a good place to start looking. If Diller's network wormed its way into mainstream American living rooms from the trailer-trash fringe (porcelain Bill and Hillary figurines, anyone?), Web auctions enjoy instant, broad appeal. It's no wonder they've exploded on the Net in the last year.

Bidders' Booty Think that's overstating things? Internet auctions have always been great places to pick up 2,000-year-old coins, antique Pairpoint whale oil lamps, and other weirdo collectibles. Today you're more likely to snag great deals on Sony cordless phones (for as little as a buck), 166MHz Pentium PCs (that start at $299), Barbie dolls, nose-hair trimmers, and every other consumer geegaw known to Wal-Mart and Western civilization.

Sotheby's it ain't. But suddenly hundreds of Web sites are getting in on the act. What's behind this madness? As with the Home Shopping Network, online auctions make use of the medium as no one could have imagined. And the effects are reaching well beyond the Net. They're changing the very relationship between merchant and consumer.

Unlike haggling, which is too labor intensive (read: expensive) for retailers and too demeaning for most consumers, auctions allow bidders to pay exactly what they think an item is worth. And unlike lonely strip malls, auctions breed excitement. Call it competitive shopping, it's an entertainment in its own right.

Slam the Gavel Meanwhile, Web auction houses are getting rich. The Internet Shopping Network's First Auction site (www.firstauction.com)—a subsidiary of the Home Shopping Network (hello, Barry Diller)—hawks golf clubs, espresso machines, genuine faux cubic zirconia jewelry, and Ginsu knives.

A recent visit showed opening bids ranging from $1 for an Interdental Plaque Remover to nearly $350 for a Kenwood CD stereo system. This is *not* a high-rent neighborhood. Yet First Auction sells $1.5 million worth of this late-night TV fare a month, a figure that the company expects to easily double within the year.

OnSale (www.onsale.com)—one of the oldest and most popular auction sites—pushes refurbished personal computers and other consumer electronics gear. It rakes in an estimated $8 million a month and draws as many as 150,000 daily visitors—far more than tread through your gloomy local mall.

Visitors love it because of the bargains—often 30 to 50 percent off what they'd pay elsewhere. More to the point, OnSale's merchandise is rarely available on the open market. It's gear that liquidators sell to businesses, not to consumers.

That's one secret for turning a buck with online auctions: rare merchandise. But even when the goods are cheesy fake diamonds, Partridge Family CDs, and marital aids, there's money to be made. Auctioneers have no marketing costs, no rent for retail space, no payrolls for dumb sales clerks.

Even so, it's the Web that makes the profit cake bake. To heat up the bidding, an auction must reach a large audience. No interactive medium can urge thousands of people around the world to bid up your bottom line with a matter of mouse clicks. They arrive in boatloads because it's fun.

Beanie Baby Fever EBay (www.ebay.com) typifies the auction fever sweeping the Net. The equivalent of a neighborhood flea market, it sells everything from vintage jewelry to antiques of questionable value. It recently became one of the five most-visited Web shopping sites, beating out Barnes & Noble and Auto-By-Tel.

Outfits like EBay played an indirect role in the Beanie Baby craze that swept the nation last Christmas. What started as cute stuffed toys for tots exploded into collectors' items for loony adults within a matter of months. Bidding shot skyward. The instant communications of the Internet only contributed to the frenzy.

Since then, a vast secondary market for the dolls has sprouted up online. Kitschy merchandise that sold for dollars last Halloween fetches hundreds, even thousands today. You certainly won't find it on the Home Shopping Network.

E-mail taylor&jerome@zd.com

Taylor & Jerome

Even when the goods are **marital aids** and **cheesy** fake diamonds, there's money to be made on Web auctions.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PERRY

NOW A 333MHz PENTIUM II SYSTEM WITH A DVD DRIVE AND 17" MONITOR FOR JUST $2,599.*

"Power users with a yen for great 3D will love the Millennia."

- Millennia Xku, *PC Magazine*, September 1997

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PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE
Millennia Xku
Sept. '97

PC WORLD
Millennia Xku
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PC Computing
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*There is no catch; we were just seeing if you're paying attention.

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MMX intel inside pentium II

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Wired or Tired?

Numerous people are taking potshots at *Wired* magazine, which seems to be on a slippery slope downhill. The problems at the magazine (which stem from its inability to make money) appear all the worse when you take a look at the March issue. I swear it's a copy of the design that was used to launch *PC Computing* ten years ago. Personally, I've had a love-hate relationship with *Wired.*

John C. Dvorak

I was familiar with the magazine before its inception when the business plan floated across my desk years ago. In it the publishers talked about how they didn't know anything about technology, but reckoned that didn't matter as much as style.

Blast-off The magazine has a list of favorite people and people they love to hate and hate to love. Both lists are small and tired, and much like the old *Spy* magazine, it has had problems finding anyone to ridicule except Donald Trump and the usual suspects month after month. Worse, *Wired* tries to blast the rich and famous, with anything Ziff-Davis–related near the top of the hate list, superseded only by an intense dislike of Paul Allen. I've always suspected that both Bill Ziff and Paul Allen rebuffed Louis Rossetto and Jane Metcalfe when they were begging for money to start this thing.

Unfortunately, the blasting goes only so far before it turns into sickening hero-worshiping and pathetic blathering. A cover page and an entire fluff piece were dedicated to, of all people, Penn Jillette. Here's a guy whose contributions to society have been stunning. Not. In fact, Penn is one of the most mean-spirited people I've ever met. And in the February issue Stewart Brand did what should have been a fascinating interview with Freemon Dyson. Most of the "interview" consisted of Brand's pontificating and plugging his own projects.

Then we have the back page. There looms Nick Negroponte, the "information should be free" guy who makes reporters sign onerous nondisclosures merely to visit his Media Lab. He got this fine position in the magazine because he was an early investor. Nobody seems to mention this little fact, ever.

> The publishers didn't know anything about **technology** but that **didn't matter as much as style.**

Not that my complaints are founded out of total objectivity. *Wired* tried to run a slam piece against me once and came up with an insulting one-page bio. The writer told me that Kevin Kelly, the editor, wanted her to do something negative. Thanks, Kevin, I love you too.

A comment I made about *Wired* when it first appeared may have gotten back to Kelly. I called it "CoEvolution Quarterly" on rag content. Kelly worked with Brand, and a few years earlier I had written a harsh critical review of Brand's book about the Media Lab. I was dubious of the lab and puzzled over some of Negroponte's background as outlined in the book. Perhaps the slam was a writer's make-good on behalf of Brand and Negroponte. It happens. . . .

The kicker to this review was a visit I made to the Media Lab with some Hearst Corporation executives. In the rather interesting tour and sales pitch for money, Negroponte called Brand's book a "great sales tool." I'll never forget him waving it around as if it were done by a PR agency. I took all the material with me and planned on doing a little slam piece on the lab, but never had the heart to do it.

Ruined The reason for this is that at the heart of the matter the Media Lab serves a cool function and keeps things interesting. *Wired,* for the most part, does the same thing. It's a cultural icon that is being ruined as this is written. Many may consider Louis Rossetto the biggest jerk in the world, but he is *Wired,* and they shoved him out because he was doing his job as editor too well. He's known for defending writers' rights and spotting cultural changes better than anyone. Furthermore, my complaints about puffery and self-conscious writing are far overshadowed by the incredible articles the magazine has printed over the years.

It will be a crime, but *Wired* will go under unless they bring Rossetto back and put the magazine back on its wacky track.

E-mail pccdvorak@zd.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PERRY

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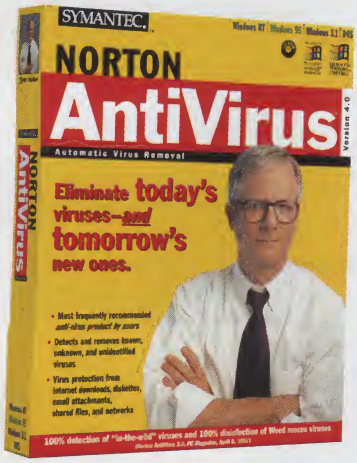

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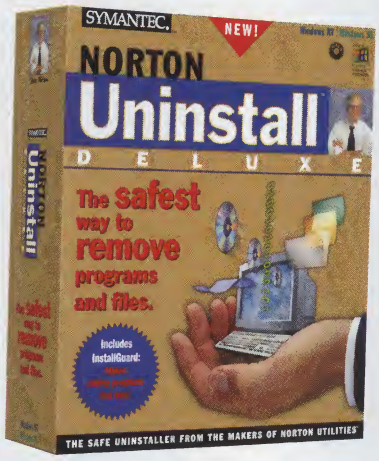

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New!

266MHz Pentium IIs

SNEAK PREVIEW

Running Windows NT on a notebook is about as much fun as vacationing in a Mississippi county jail. But with the arrival of the mobile version of Intel's Pentium II chip, six first-generation portables from IBM, Toshiba, Hewlett-Packard, Gateway, Dell, and Quantex give you the power—if not all the pieces—to tame Microsoft's top-drawer operating system.

Executive Privilege As you'd expect, all six boxes are pricey, top-of-the-line affairs. Their stickers vary by more than $2,000. But for managers who need the power, this cost can be written off in a single sales call.

For the money, you get about a 20 percent boost in performance over similarly equipped 266MHz MMX Pentium notebooks running Windows 95, and considerably more under Windows NT. This should appeal to business folk migrating from one OS to the other.

The machines themselves have plenty of appeal. After all, they're no small technical feat. Never mind what it takes to shoehorn the physical chip and its L2 cache into a notebook form factor; the twin bugaboos for creating a mobile version of the Pentium II have been heat and the hit on battery life. Intel has done a fine job of damage control on both fronts.

The more transistors on a chip, the more electricity it devours. Electricity is dissipated primarily as heat. It's hard enough to keep cool the 5.4 million transistors on your basic high-megahertz MMX Pentium CPU. The Pentium II has 7.5 million transistors—nearly 40 percent more. Even more disconcerting, Intel has introduced these mobile chips in 233MHz and 266MHz versions, both of which fall at the toasty end of what the tight confines of a notebook can bear.

So how do you prevent total system meltdown? In a word, fans. All six portables we evaluated come with tiny, relatively quiet blowers.

Yet this raises the other specter haunting the Pentium II. Fans suck down battery charge as if it were Gatorade. And the Pentium II itself—along with its generous 512K L2 cache—requires more juice than a simple MMX Pentium. Plus if you're going to run NT on your box now or in the future, you'll want to stock it with at least 64MB of RAM, and memory chips slurp electricity too.

Even so, all six notebooks turned up pleasant surprises when *PC Computing*'s Performance Labs put them through battery tests. Yes, you take a hit in charge life with a Pentium II notebook over your plain-Jane Pentium. And no, you can't make a Los Angeles–to–New York flight without a second battery on hand. But you can expect anywhere from 2.5 hours (the Quantex H-1331) to a not-too-shabby 3.5 hours (the Hewlett-Packard OmniBook 7100) on a charge.

LA to Phoenix? That's decent for any notebook. Credit goes partially to Intel for milling its mobile Pentium II using the same compact 2.5-micron process used for the mobile P5 chip. Internally, the CPU's draw on power can slump all the way down to 1.8 volts. And even at full steam, it draws only 2.7 volts.

But let's be honest: You'll be toting a heavy load with these notebooks on account of big batteries. The IBM ThinkPad 600 will please your shoulders the most, thanks to its relatively feathery 4.9 pounds, when stripped to its skivvies. The Gateway 2000 Solo 9100 LS and the HP OmniBook 7100, on the other hand, weigh a whopping 8.3 pounds in the buff. When dressed for travel, they tip the scales at well over 9 pounds, which is one heavy turkey when trotting down long concourses in crowded airports. So buy a wheelbarrow for hauling your notebook.

The show these machines present will impress your clients to no end. All come with 13.3- to 14.1-inch active-matrix displays—viewable by audiences of up to five. The Toshiba Tecra 780DVD is the only notebook that ships with hardware-based MPEG-2 support; the others, except the Quantex, offer a software solution. All but the Dell Inspiron 3200 D266XT and the Quantex H-1331 feature video-out ports. And all come with

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

IBM ThinkPad 600

★★★★★

Verdict: No better—or lighter—way to put a Pentium II on the road.

Pros: Feathery weight; first-rate usability.

Cons: Gouging price.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of RAM, 4GB hard drive, 24X CD-ROM drive, 13.3-inch active-matrix display, software-based MPEG-1 playback, two PC Card slots, integrated 16-bit audio, infrared port, USB port.

$5,499 est. street price / IBM Corp. / (800) 426-2255 / *Enter 674 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Guide to PC Computing's Ratings

Excellent *Market leader that offers exceptional performance* ★★★★★

Good *Excels in many areas; a good buy* ★★★★

Acceptable *Average for its class; a justifiable purchase* ★★★

Poor *Out-of-date or substandard; offset by some positive features* ★★

Unacceptable *Missing necessary features; avoid* ★

Take Off

speedy graphics accelerators.

Winners' Circle Technical stats aside, none of these machines will disappoint should your IS manager hand you one tomorrow morning. But if you've got a say in the matter, get the IBM ThinkPad 600. It's not the fastest, nor the longest lived (though it tied with the Toshiba Tecra 780DVD for the second-longest charge life—and remember this is with a sub–6-pound weight). More important, the ThinkPad's usability suffers no peer.

By the time you read this, you'll be able to swap out the machine's CD-ROM drive for an optional DVD drive—or a second battery, a second hard drive, or a floppy drive. The machine's 13.3-inch screen isn't as big as the displays on the Gateway Solo or the HP OmniBook. But its brightness and color saturation make it a stunning presentation platform. (With the notebook's weight savings, tote along a pair of external speakers; like all the machines here, the integrated pair will make you howl in pain.)

With 64MB of memory, a 4GB hard drive, and a 24-speed CD-ROM drive, the ThinkPad costs $5,499. Shocking? Oh my, yes. But when you need the power of a Pentium II in the best box available, this is the machine to get.

Wait just a minute, you say. The Toshiba Tecra 780DVD performs better than the IBM ThinkPad (by a small margin), it lasts exactly as long on a charge, and it comes with a whopping 8.1GB hard drive. It's got all the options and multimedia glitz of the ThinkPad. What's more, it includes a DVD drive as standard equipment, yet costs exactly the same as the ThinkPad. What gives?

You've got a point. If features matter more than usability, the Tecra's definitely got the edge. It stacks up to the ThinkPad eyeball to eyeball, then sneaks in some goodies—videoconferencing software being one of the splashier toys. It's even got a pointing stick, to our great satisfaction. But it's heftier than Big Blue's finest, its backlighting isn't as bright, and its keyboard is prime for a redesign. Even so, you'd be crazy to take it off your shortlist.

Of course, a notebook purchase order that exceeds $5,000 will make some bean counters cough blood. For the strong of shoulder, Hewlett-Packard's seductive 8.3-pound OmniBook 7100 delivers better dollar value and lasts a little longer on a charge than the ThinkPad or the Tecra. Its performance isn't shabby either.

The machine's $4,975 price (with 64MB of memory) is still steep. But the display is bigger—14.1 inches—it's got a capacious 6.4GB hard drive, and it enjoys all the flexibility and features found on the other two big shots—including optional DVD and LS-120 floppy drives. The OmniBook's keyboard layout and response are first-rate, even if the touch pad left us wanting. Heft is a usability drawback only if you travel frequently with the machine. As a desktop PC replacement, the OmniBook is a fine alternative.

Pentium II for Tightwads As weight goes, we'd forgive the Gateway Solo 9100 LS's 8.4 pounds (in the buff) if only its battery life were better. The OmniBook outlasted it by almost 40 minutes. Like the OmniBook, the Solo comes with a beautiful

Hewlett-Packard OmniBook 7100

★★★★

Verdict: An equally equipped, cheaper alternative to the big shots.

Pros: Enormous display; battery that won't quit.

Cons: Needs to join Weight Watchers.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of SDRAM, 6.4GB hard drive, 24X CD-ROM drive, 14.1-inch active-matrix display, software-based MPEG-2 playback, TV-out port, two PC Card slots, integrated 16-bit audio, infrared port, USB port.

$4,975 est. street price / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 322-4772

Toshiba Tecra 780DVD

★★★★

Verdict: When features matter most, it's the clear-cut winner.

Pros: Barn-burning performance; loaded.

Cons: Could shed a pound or two—and a few hundred dollars.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of RAM, 8.1GB hard drive, DVD drive, 13.3-inch active-matrix display, hardware-based MPEG-2 playback, TV-out port, two PC Card slots, integrated 16-bit audio, video camera, infrared port, USB port.

$5,499 est. street price / Toshiba / (800) 334-3445 / *Enter 675 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Dell Inspiron 3200 D266XT

★★★

Verdict: Full-featured, decent performer, and easy on the budget.

Pros: Good dollar value; kind to the shoulders.

Cons: Anemic battery life.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of RAM, 4GB hard drive, 24X CD-ROM drive, 13.3-inch active-matrix display, software-based MPEG-1 playback, two PC Card slots, integrated 16-bit audio, infrared port, USB port.

$3,199 est. street price / Dell Computer Corp. / (800) 388-8542 / *Enter 676 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Gateway Solo 9100 LS

★★★

Verdict: A great way to save $1,000 over the big guns for a PII portable.

Pros: Feast-for-the-eyes screen; DVD included.

Cons: Oh, your aching shoulders.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of RAM, 4GB hard drive, DVD drive, 14.1-inch active-matrix display, software-based MPEG-2 playback, TV-out port, two PC Card slots, integrated 16-bit audio, 56Kbps modem, infrared port, USB port.

$4,399 est. street price / Gateway 2000 / (800) 846-2000 / *Enter 677 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Quantex H-1331

★★★

Verdict: Feature for feature, on par with the Dell Inspiron.

Pros: Fair traveling weight; extras included.

Cons: Short on battery life.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of RAM, 4GB hard drive, 24X CD-ROM drive, 13.3-inch active-matrix display, two PC Card slots, integrated 16-bit audio, 56Kbps PC Card fax modem, infrared port, USB port.

$3,199 est. street price / Quantex / (800) 787-8686 / *Enter 678 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

14.1-inch active-matrix display. Unlike the OmniBook, the Solo includes a DVD drive and a cellular-ready 56Kbps modem in the price—which, by the way, is $576 *less* than the OmniBook's.

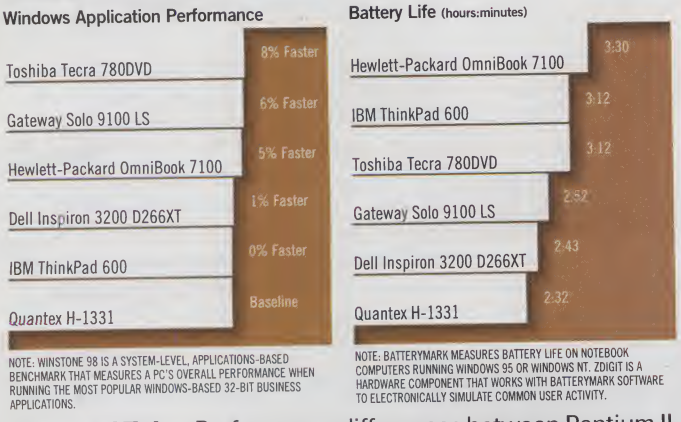
The notebook's usability is up to Gateway's standards. The keyboard layout and response are excellent. We'd trade the touch pad for a pointing stick and the LED lights for an LCD panel to display system status. But these are trifles. The floppy drive is integrated, which leaves only one drive bay for other peripherals. If you need a splashy presentation platform but the budget browbeaters are on your case, the Solo merits a hard second look.

Or maybe show business isn't your province. Dell and Quantex provide sweet entry points for Pentium II productivity notebooks. The machines are identical, but Dell's Inspiron 3200 D266XT turned in performance and battery scores that are a tad better than Quantex. Its price: $3,199. Sounds cheap? That cash snags you a 13.3-inch active-matrix display, a 4GB hard drive, a 24-speed CD-ROM drive, and all the bells and whistles. It travels well, too, thanks to its 6.9-pound weight. Its performance won't disappoint. But its battery couldn't even muster 3 hours of life.

The $3,199 Quantex H-1331 matches the Inspiron in features and performance down the line, except Quantex includes a 56Kbps PC Card fax modem, which costs extra with the Inspiron. These two equally priced notebooks serve up plenty of features for the money.

It's clear that none of these Pentium II notebooks are primed to be the perfect travel companions—they're all a bit overweight. But as far as features and power go, you'll find no portable match. If you're taking the show on the road and want to raise eyebrows, make your portable partner the IBM ThinkPad 600. Yes, it's costly, but no one ever said the best would come without sacrifice. **MARTY JEROME**

Pentium II Portable



Give and Take: Performance differences between Pentium II notebooks are negligible. But battery charge life is another matter entirely, with an hour range among systems.

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Intel's 3-D Push

SNEAK PREVIEW

Look beneath the surface of any computer on any office desktop and there's probably an Intel CPU inside. Can Intel make an equally large splash in the graphics world? That's its goal with the new Intel740 advanced graphics port (AGP) graphics chip.

The performance of the first Intel740-based graphics board, Real 3D's StarFighter, will keep other chip makers on their toes. Strong 3-D numbers, combined with Intel's production power and marketing clout, pose a real challenge to competitors. Here's hoping they respond with better, cheaper 3-D than ever before.

Tailor-made The Intel740 has an edge over competing chips like Nvidia's Riva 128, because it's designed with AGP in mind. That's key, considering that today's new desktop systems ship standard with AGP on the motherboard.

With Intel tricks like parallel data processing, direct memory execution, and full 2X AGP sideband support, the Intel740 processes textures, crunches numbers, and renders images immediately from both local and system memory—simultaneously if necessary. All this adds up to more efficient use of the whole system and the AGP pipeline—as well as smooth, realistic 3-D images.

3-D in Overdrive: Intel already dominates the system processor market; now it's trying its hand at graphics with the Intel740 chip, seen here on Real 3D's StarFighter board. The 3-D performance results are impressive.

First Look Several Intel740 boards are in the works from Intel and major graphics board makers like STB and Diamond. However, the first Intel740 board on the street comes from Real 3D, Intel's partner in developing both the AGP standard and the Intel740 chip. The StarFighter is an impressive debut for Real 3D.

In 2-D tests the StarFighter performed on a par with STB's Nvidia-based AGP board, the Velocity 128—in other words, very well. The Velocity 128 did edge out the StarFighter by 2 points in 2-D, but that's a small difference in real life. In fact, business users won't see much gain between the StarFighter and today's top PCI boards.

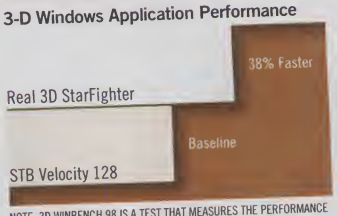
However, our 3D WinBench tests proved the Intel740's prowess as a 3-D chip. The StarFighter blew away the same Nvidia board by 38 percent in the 3-D tests. That score translates to better perspectives, smoother edges, and faster frame rates in high-texture 3-D games like Rage Software's Incoming. And there's no contest between the StarFighter and the fastest consumer PCI boards available today.

That's great news for gamers. Developers are signing on to create games with the Intel740 chip in mind. However, the 3-D battle isn't over yet. New 3Dfx Voodoo2 boards from Diamond and Creative Labs are on the way; Matrox and ATI are launching next-generation graphics boards later this year; and Nvidia has announced its Riva 128ZX chip, which should give Intel some hot competition in both performance and price.

But Real 3D's StarFighter board proves that done right, AGP shows real improvements in 3-D graphics performance. And with Intel in the graphics game, coming up with the next best chip is more crucial to the other players than ever. The fight will be fun to watch, and so will the great 3-D graphics we get out of it. **JULIE POLITO**

Intel Inside

3-D Windows Application Performance



NOTE: 3D WINBENCH 98 IS A TEST THAT MEASURES THE PERFORMANCE AND FEATURES OF A PC'S 3-D SUBSYSTEM UNDER WINDOWS 95. ALL TESTS WERE PERFORMED ON A DELL DIMENSION XPS D333.

Whiplash: Real 3D's StarFighter, based on the Intel740 graphics chip, leaves STB's Nvidia-based Velocity 128 in the dust. The boards' 2-D performance, however, is nearly identical.

FILEBOX

StarFighter

★★★★★

Verdict: The Intel740 graphics chip debuts with a bang in this awesome 3-D board.

Pros: Record-breaking 3-D performance; reasonable price; true 2X AGP support.

Cons: Not much of a 2-D performance edge over older boards.

Competition: Other AGP boards like STB's Nvidia-based Velocity 128 go neck-and-neck with the StarFighter on 2-D performance, but can't keep up with 3-D. PCI boards just don't compare. ATI's Rage Pro AGP boards also support 2X AGP, but Intel's implementation is the smoothest we've seen so far.

Features As Tested: AGP interface, 8MB of SGRAM (4MB also available), 1,280 by 1,024 maximum 3-D resolution, 1,600 by 1,200 maximum 2-D resolution, Intel740 AGP graphics chip.

$200 for 8MB version, $150 for 4MB version, est. street prices
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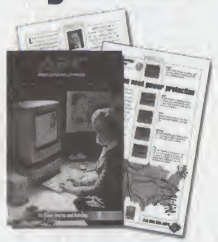

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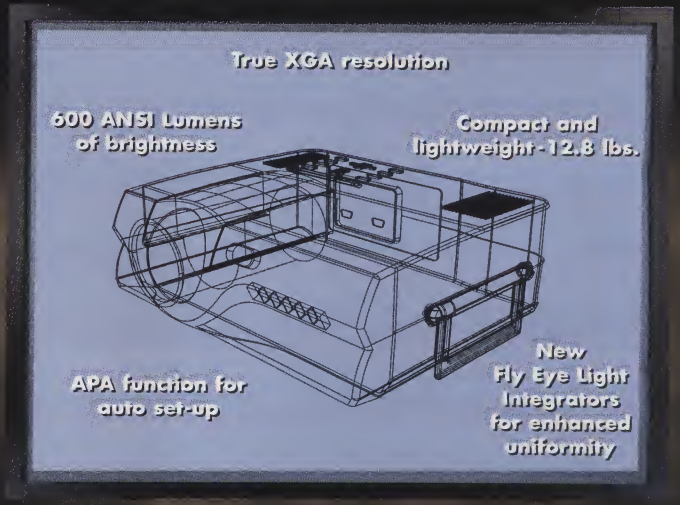

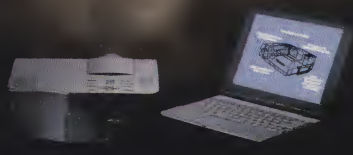

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Ultraskinny, Ultracool

SNEAK PREVIEW

Hewlett-Packard's new OmniBook Sojourn is thinner than your wallet after a long weekend in Las Vegas, yet the notebook packs a 233MHz MMX Pentium CPU and a gorgeous 12.1-inch screen.

Sound impossible? It's hard to believe your eyes as you hold the 3.2-pound ultraportable, then gaze into its generous display or work your fingers over its full-size keyboard. The Sojourn measures less than three-fourths of an inch thick. The machine's portability is utterly miraculous.

Sleight of Hand For all its featheriness, it's a full-featured notebook. Obviously you can't squeeze ports, a CD-ROM drive, and a floppy drive into its wafer-thin height. Instead, a multimedia slice snaps Lego-like onto the bottom of the machine, raising its height to 1.58 inches and its weight to 6 pounds.

What's missing from this brew is a battery. A third slice measuring less than half an inch thick snaps onto the bottom of the multimedia module, feeding juice to your machine. The notebook itself has a very small nonremovable battery, which provides in the neighborhood of 1.5 hours of charge. With the battery slice attached, charge life jumps to 6 hours, according to company officials.

But there's enough charge in the notebook itself for taking notes in a meeting or for dashing off quick memos on an airplane.

You can later use the AC adapter in your hotel room for e-mail and serious productivity. The machine manages to wedge in two PC Card slots side by side, along with an infrared port, a headphone jack, a microphone, a small speaker, and a USB connector. So why no integrated modem?

The price for this fine malleability is . . . we'll get to that in a moment. Usability is the machine's province. Not only is it ultraskinny and superlight, but the display is mesmerizingly bright and crisp and the keyboard layout is excellent—even if function keys and cursor controls are unnecessarily undersized.

Trade-off But be forewarned that there's almost no key travel whatsoever. Given this drawback, the keys would benefit from a little more snap-over response. As it is, your fingers have to adapt. But adapt they will. The machine's usability overall is splendid.

The Sojourn's estimated $5,799 street price—add $799 for the battery slice—at least buys a complete bundle. You get 64MB of RAM (Windows NT *is* supported), a 2.1GB hard drive, a 24-speed CD-ROM drive, 2MB of memory on the video card, and all the bells and whistles you'd expect. It's an expensive machine, all right. But it's thinner than Hillary Clinton's smile before a grand jury. If your budget allows, you'll want one. MARTY JEROME

FILEBOX

Hewlett-Packard OmniBook Sojourn

★★★★

Verdict: Dressed up or down, this skinny machine stands up to any itinerary.

Pros: Miraculous portability, yet loaded to the gills.

Cons: Price that makes you say *Yowsah!* No integrated modem.

Features As Tested: 233MHz MMX Pentium CPU, 256K L2 cache, 64MB of RAM (not expandable), 2.1GB hard drive, 24X CD-ROM drive, 12.1-inch active-matrix display, 16-bit audio, two PC Card slots (Zoomed Video), optional battery slice.

$5,799 est. street price
Hewlett-Packard
(800) 322-4772

One, Two, Three: HP's Sojourn snaps together in three tiers—a 3.2-pound notebook (shown here), a multimedia slice, and a battery slice that extends charge life.

High-Performance Haute Couture

SNEAK PREVIEW

Remember when that big beige box looked sharp sitting on your desk? That was back when you thought a 386 was a processor worth bragging about. Now nothing less than a Pentium II is fast enough for you. It's time to shop for a system that complements your office and doesn't take over your desk. Check out the new flat-panel PC from Hitachi PC—and bring your checkbook. This executive workstation is an early example of the face of desktops to come.

The first thing you'll notice on the Hitachi PC VisionDesk is the bright liquid crystal display. It puts brighter, clearer color on less of your desktop than is possible with bulky CRT monitors. In fact, the VisionDesk's 13.3-inch display is sharper than 15-inch monitors and more colorful than 17-inchers. LCD manufacturing efficiencies and a surplus of supplies have finally pushed price points down to where flat panels are viable replacements for CRTs—at least on high-end systems. You can add a free-standing LCD to any desktop for about $2,000.

The VisionDesk draws on portable technology to pack tons of features into a small space, including a 20-speed CD-ROM drive and 1.44MB floppy drive, front-facing speakers, USB ports for external peripherals, and a single PCI/ISA slot. The system is LAN- and intranet-ready with a built-in network card and a 56Kbps x2 modem. A few caveats: The network interface card is 10Base-T, which is fine for standard (10MBps) Ethernet, but it doesn't work with Fast Ethernet (100MBps). You'll need to update the x2 modem to the new V.90 56Kbps modem standard, which is an easy flash upgrade. You'll also find an IrDA-compliant infrared port for quick data transfer with other infrared devices.

Clever Disguise The 22-pound VisionDesk is the kind of all-in-one design we've seen in other PCs, but with far less bulk. It measures a sleek 7 inches deep and 15 inches square—about a third the size of a traditional desktop—and a built-in handle reminds us of the days when people carried Macintoshes onto airplanes. It's definitely light enough to tote home or to an offsite meeting in a pinch. Fear not, however—this system is far too heavy and bulky to pose any real threat to your portable computer.

But this is no dowdy black-and-white Mac. At $3,399 the VisionDesk is actually an upscale workstation powered by Intel's 233MHz Pentium II CPU. Also inside the trim case is a generous 4.3GB hard drive and 32MB of ECC synchronous DRAM (upgradable to 256MB). Error checking and correcting (ECC) memory keeps your system from being brought to its knees by single-bit parity errors, while synchronous DRAM (SDRAM) is about twice as fast as today's EDO DRAM. It's the next big thing.

The VisionDesk's supersharp active-matrix display handles 65,000 colors at 1,024 by 768 resolution, as well as TV-quality video for 3-D games or desktop presentations. Both activities are uniquely appealing on this LCD, which gives off virtually no glare and sports a 140-degree viewing angle. Even colleagues to your far left and right can read this display (which may be good or bad, depending on whether you're giving a *presentation* or playing Riven). However, the 16-bit audio and basic built-in speakers certainly won't blow you away.

If price and reclaiming desktop space are your highest priorities, check out the Hitachi PC VisionDesk. It offers the best view you've ever had on a desktop. Now your biggest challenge is figuring out what other components will match this sleek, new machine sitting on your desk. MIKE HOGAN

Front-Office Material: The beige box on your desk is an office eyesore. Hitachi PC's VisionDesk combines a bright flat-panel display and a fast, full-featured Pentium II processor in a trim, space-saving desktop design.

FILEBOX

Hitachi PC VisionDesk

★★★★

Verdict: A desktop PC never looked this good—or this trim.

Pros: Brilliant, bright, Super TFT LCD display; sleek space-saving design; integrated communications with both a network interface and a flash-upgradable 56Kbps (V.90) modem; affordable.

Cons: Smallish display at only 13.3 inches; average 16-bit audio with basic built-in speakers.

Features As Tested: 233MHz Pentium II CPU, 13.3-inch Super TFT display, 32MB of ECC SDRAM upgradable to 256MB, 4.3GB hard drive, 20X CD-ROM drive, built-in LAN card, 56Kbps modem, PCI/ISA expansion slot.

$3,399 est. street price
Hitachi PC Corp.
(800) 448-2244, (408) 546-8216
Enter 680 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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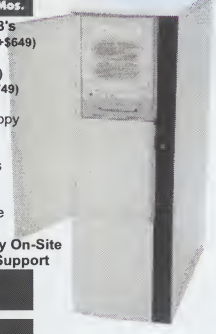

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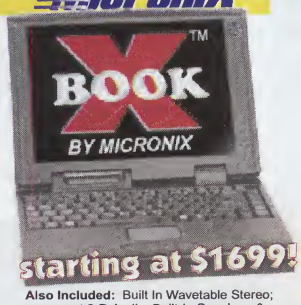

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Multimedia with a Buzz

You want to do *Titanic*-quality video editing on your system, but you're on a home-movie budget. Most low-cost video-capture devices are easy enough to use, but lack the power to deliver truly dazzling clips. Iomega's Buz Multimedia Producer breaks the external video-capture mold, producing higher-resolution video at a rock-bottom price.

Quick Cuts What sets the Iomega Buz apart from most devices, besides its very low cost, is its included Ultra SCSI controller. In fact you can get the entire Buz package for the cost of a good SCSI card, so if you're shopping for SCSI it's quite a bargain. With internal and external connectors, the Buz SCSI setup works great with Iomega's speedy SCSI-based Jaz and Zip drives. Iomega has even done some tweaking to make transferring video directly to a Jaz drive as fast as or even faster than transferring to a regular hard drive.

Despite the minor surgery necessary to install the SCSI card, the Buz is easy to set up and comes with a video and CD to walk you through the steps. The card plugs into a PCI slot, and the Buz breakout box plugs into the card's external connector. The box itself has composite, stereo audio, and S-Video in and out connectors.

Most similar video-capture products use hardware MPEG compression, which is limited to 352-by-240-pixel resolution. The Buz uses a more sophisticated Zoran chip that digitizes at up to 720 by 480 pixels, closer to broadcast quality than anything else in its price range. It also uses M-JPEG, a more efficient and easier-to-edit format than MPEG. You can't easily play M-JPEG without the Buz, but you can save files to AVI, QuickTime, or MPEG.

Plug It In: Iomega's Buz gives you more multimedia access for the money, right from your desktop. Grab both sound and M-JPEG video through the breakout box.

Special Effects When it comes to software, the Buz bundle emphasizes usability over everything else. It includes an enhanced version of MGI's VideoWave, which is one of the friendliest video-editing products on the market. While it lacks advanced features, it covers most of the basics to let you capture video, enhance its image quality, edit sequences together with transitions, add fly-in text, and mix and edit audio. MGI includes a how-to video on the CD that clearly explains all the features.

Iomega gives you another intuitive product, PictureWorks HotShots, for still images. It asks you under what conditions the picture was taken and how it was digitized, and then does automatic corrections that work remarkably well. It includes the usual image-editing tools and special-effects features, and lets you experiment to see what works best.

You also get Iomega's RecordIt software for recording MPEG-2 audio through the Buz directly from a music CD, and a limited-use version of PictureWorks' Netcard, which lets you send six multimedia postcards across the Internet.

There are a few computer systems that don't play well with the Buz (they're clearly marked on the box), and there are conflicts with video display cards that are more than a few years old, but overall the Buz works well with a wide variety of systems and hardware configurations.

If you're doing video duplication or complex business presentations, you might prefer a more expensive internal capture card. But the combination of low cost and extreme ease of use makes the Buz an *excellent* choice for those who want to dabble in decent-quality video on their computer without investing a lot of time or money. **GEOFFREY WILLIAMS**

Usability Plus: Beginners, never fear. Iomega bundles the friendliest multimedia editing software around, including MGI's VideoWave.

FILEBOX

Iomega Buz Multimedia Producer

★★★★★

Verdict: A full-service multimedia producer in one box.

Pros: M-JPEG hardware-based video capture; included SCSI card; friendly interface for video novices.

Cons: Still images don't measure up to those from today's digital cameras; slow rendering of final production on older, non-MMX systems; not compatible with all video display cards.

Competition: Internal capture cards and Matrox's Rainbow Runner Studio give you more professional editing tools, but at a slightly higher price and steeper learning curve. Most comparably priced capture devices, and many more-expensive ones, can't match the Buz's video quality.

Features As Tested: 720-by-480 resolution at 30-fps video-capture rate; all resolutions at up to 24-bit color; supports MPEG, M-JPEG, AVI, and QuickTime formats; Ultra SCSI controller.

$199 est. street price
Iomega Corp., (800) 697-8833
Enter 681 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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If you need extra hard drive space—and who doesn't these days—there's been a handful of options, none of them perfect. Iomega's Jaz Drive and SyQuest's SyJet are both relatively expensive, and the popular Iomega Zip drive, while cheaper up front, is costly per megabyte and painfully slow. But SyQuest has finally broken the price-per-megabyte barrier with a 1GB, low-price wonder called the SparQ. It's the removable drive for those who don't yet have one—and maybe for some who already do.

Zap the Zip: Everyone needs more storage space. The SyQuest SparQ drive's removable 1GB cartridges give you more room than the Iomega Zip for far less money than either the SyQuest SyJet or the Iomega Jaz drive.

Do the Math The SparQ's best feature by far is its low price. SyQuest has managed to keep the price down in terms of both initial expense and additional media costs. The $199 drive includes one 1GB cartridge. At $99 for a pack of three, additional SparQ cartridges run 4 cents per megabyte, less than half the cost of Zip media and one-third the cost of Jaz disks. The cartridges actually cost 3.4 cents per megabyte, but we feel comfortable rounding the price up since SyQuest rounded its megabyte down to 1,000,000 bytes from the true measurement of 1,048,576 bytes per megabyte. The result? A SparQ cartridge actually holds 977MB of data, nearly 5 percent less than you'd expect. That's still a lot of space, but if you're counting on the full gig, take note.

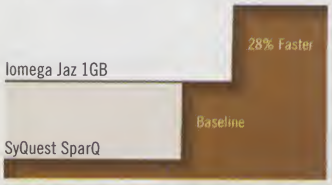
Despite the somewhat inflated storage claims, the SparQ delivers Zip-killing performance, noticeably outperforming a Zip drive in our subjective tests, copying large files and blocks of files to and from both drives. However, the SparQ still lags behind Iomega's pricier 1GB Jaz drive in our benchmark tests.

While we tested a parallel-port version of the SparQ (one that includes a printer pass-through port), a slightly more expensive internal IDE version is available with faster performance. The IDE version may be quick enough to run applications, but the parallel-port version isn't quite up to speed when it comes to running drive-intensive apps. Higher-capacity drives like the SyJet and the Jaz are still tops for that. But for plain-old storage, the parallel-port SparQ is more than adequate. We were disappointed to learn that SyQuest isn't planning a SCSI version of the product, which would deliver far superior throughput though it might raise the price.

Hardware Headaches Our only major complaint with the SparQ is a rather clunky bit of installation software. The initial installation is actually done by a DOS program that starts a Windows program. When the installation routine failed to find the SparQ attached to a laptop, the DOS program was our only source of information. We were able to get the software installed without too much additional trouble, but it was not very helpful. If SyQuest wants to grab the same broad audience that Iomega has enjoyed, it needs to ditch the DOS routine.

The SparQ gives you plenty of room to move, but it's not a hard drive replacement. If you're running apps, you'll want to go with a faster drive, like SyQuest's SyJet, Iomega's 1GB Jaz, or the new 2GB Jaz (see "Pocket-size Hard Drive," April, page 96). But despite its installation quirks, the SparQ is a technical achievement for the price. It definitely gives the Zip drive a run for best low-cost removable storage option. *It's relatively fast, easy, and offers an incredible value for anyone who feels the pinch of dwindling hard drive space—or just needs to take their files on the road.* **DAVE GERDING**

Room to Move
Drive Performance



NOTE: DISK WINMARK 98 IS A TEST THAT MEASURES DISK PERFORMANCE UNDER WINDOWS 95 AND WINDOWS NT. ALL TESTS WERE PERFORMED ON A DELL DIMENSION XPS M200S.

Disk Drag: The SyQuest SparQ still can't catch Iomega's 1GB Jaz, but in our informal tests, it outperformed the Iomega Zip drive by a large margin.

FILEBOX

SyQuest SparQ 1.0

★★★★

Verdict: Nearly ten times as much storage as the Zip drive, and faster too. We'll take it!

Pros: Great price per megabyte.

Cons: Still playing catch-up to the SyJet and Jaz drives in speed; clunky DOS installation routine.

Competition: The Jaz and SyJet drives offer comparable storage space and faster speed, but at a higher price. The Zip drive is noticeably slower with smaller cartridges, and costs more per megabyte.

System Requirements: Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, 486 CPU.

$199 (includes one cartridge), $39 per cartridge or $99 for three, est. street prices
SyQuest Technology
(800) 245-2278, (510) 226-4149
Enter 683 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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Monochrome Meets Its Match

Chocolate or vanilla? *Deep Space Nine* or *Babylon 5*? Laser or solid-ink? For these burning questions of our time, here are the answers: Chocolate is nonprescription Prozac; *Babylon 5* has much better character development; and, for color workgroup printing—well, it's a toss-up. Scoop yourself a bowl of Chocolate Fudge Brownie and flip on TNT while we explain.

The Minolta Color PageWorks PS and the Tektronix Phaser 360 are color-capable workgroup printers with price tags under $4,000. The former includes a laser engine, while the latter uses solid-ink technology. Which produces the liveliest color and sharpest text? One look is all it takes: The laser engine wins hands-down. But don't discount the Phaser; it's faster, smarter, and less expensive to operate.

Cost-Cutting Color: The Tektronix Phaser 360 (left) sports solid-ink technology and free black ink. The Minolta Color PageWorks PS churns out framable color pages.

Phaser or Laser? Indeed, the Phaser takes less time to warm up and print its first sheet, and it churns out color pages at nearly twice the speed of the PageWorks (though the latter is quicker with monochrome pages). The Phaser features PostScript 3—a whole level higher than the PageWorks' PostScript (and a boon for cutting-edge graphic artists). And it comes with a rather remarkable extra: free black ink. Whenever you buy a box of color ink bricks, Tektronix throws in a box of the black stuff, no charge. But you still have to pay for paper, so long-term costs are about equal at 2 cents per page for black and white, and 11 cents per page for color.

But laser wins out overall. The PageWorks produces color to die for, whether you're printing photographs, business charts, or proofs of the company newsletter. Images appear tack sharp and silky smooth, with deep, vibrant hues. The printer is no slouch with text, either—characters look as crisp as if they'd come from a high-end monochrome laser.

The Phaser, for all its other merits, produces comparatively mediocre results. Text, while sharp, has the slightly ragged look of ink-jet output. And photos look decidedly grainy, despite the printer's 600-dpi engine. (The PageWorks also prints at 600 dpi, proving that resolution isn't everything.) And while the Phaser's colors were admirably well balanced, they looked a bit muddy next to those of the PageWorks.

Paper Passing The PageWorks is also the better paper handler. Its paper tray and fold-down multipurpose tray accommodate 400 sheets between them, while the Phaser is limited to 200. Conversely, the Phaser features out-of-box Ethernet support, while the PageWorks requires a $379 add-in card.

Both Minolta and Tektronix offer trimmed-down versions of these printers. The non-PostScript version of the PageWorks, with 4MB of RAM, is an unbelievable bargain at $2,899. The Phaser 350 is an even bigger steal at $2,495, sacrificing the Ethernet capabilities and shipping with PostScript 2.

In this color-printer showdown, the PageWorks has the definite edge in output quality. However, the Phaser's consumables cost less, and it's faster at printing color. **RICK BROIDA**

MINOLTA

PC Computing Image Test

TEKTRONIX

PC Computing Image Test

Is It Live? Minolta's color output (left) is simply dazzling, with brilliant hues and sharp images. The Phaser's output, on the other hand, is grainier.

FILEBOX

Minolta Color PageWorks PS

★★★★★

Verdict: An awesome—and affordable—color laser printer.

Pros: Exquisite color output; ultrasharp text; fast; easy toner replacement.

Cons: Slower color printing; PostScript 2, not 3.

$3,299 est. street price
Minolta Corp.
(888) 264-6658
Enter 684 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Tektronix Phaser 360

★★★★

Verdict: Fast, fetching full-page color—and free black ink!

Pros: Speedy color output and faster than the Minolta; free black ink; PostScript 3.

Cons: Colors seem dark; grainy graphics; fuzzy text.

$3,695 est. street price
Tektronix
(800) 835-6100, (503) 682-7377
Enter 685 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

HOW TO SAVE FILES THAT START

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Use only genuine Zip disks featuring this symbol zip in your Zip drive.

BECAUSE IT'S YOUR STUFF.™

iomega

Make the Move to Video

They're not zany enough for *America's Funniest* or adequately hip to make MTV, but lots of videos appear in Web pages and multimedia presentations. Sounds high-tech, but creating video clips is a cinch with an external capture device. Three new products, Videonics' Python, FutureTel's Video Sphinx Pro, and ArcSoft's Zipshot, each connect to your computer's parallel port and capture full-motion video and still images from your camcorder or VCR.

These devices couldn't be easier to install—just plug them in. They competently capture video at resolutions up to 352 by 240 pixels at 30 fps, adequate for Web pages and presentations. All offer printer pass-through connectors and generous software bundles. If you want to capture higher-resolution video, you still need a traditional capture board. But when you're aiming for a Web or multimedia directorial debut, external video-capture devices deliver the moving goods.

Director's Cut: Grab video clips for presentations and Web pages. ArcSoft's Zipshot, Videonics' Python, and FutureTel's Video Sphinx Pro (clockwise from top left) quickly capture video to your computer from your camcorder or VCR.

Stand Back We were taken with Videonics' Python. It does a commendable job of capturing MPEG video at 352-by-240-pixel resolution and 30 fps, though the associated sound is fuzzy. The Python comes with Kai's PhotoSoap SE and programs for creating streaming Web video and video e-mail. The Python integrates these features into a single friendly interface, where you can trim extraneous frames from videos and use convenient sliders to adjust image settings and volume.

In its battle with the Python, the FutureTel Video Sphinx Pro also captures first-rate MPEG video at 352 by 240 and 30 fps, but its sound is a huge improvement over that of the Python. Unfortunately, the Video Sphinx Pro doesn't let you view video on your PC as you capture it, a feature the other two products include.

Like the Python, the Sphinx has a single, well-organized software interface. You can edit MPEG videos, arrange multimedia slide shows, and store files in albums with helpful thumbnails. The Sphinx has a slimmer software bundle than the Python—only Kai's PhotoSoap and Macromedia Backstage for Web authoring—but its hardware is superior.

Under Your Thumb: The Video Sphinx Pro's software lets you create conveniently tabbed albums that show thumbnails of your photos and clips.

Good Deal At $99, less than one-third the price of the others, the ArcSoft Zipshot is a terrific bargain. But you get half the performance. The Zipshot's jerky 320-by-240, 15-to-25-fps AVI video doesn't compare to video from the other devices.

Aside from its rough video, the Zipshot does a solid job of grabbing still shots. It bundles image-editing software as well as products for multimedia postcards and videoconferencing. At the low end of the market, the Zipshot is a steal.

Overall, the FutureTel Video Sphinx Pro wins narrowly for its great combination of sound and video. However, the Videonics Python offers good video and a better software bundle. Consider the ArcSoft Zipshot for grabbing simple shots at a low price. In any event, with products this easy there's no excuse not to move your audience with video in your presentations and Web pages. **WAYNE KAWAMOTO**

FILEBOX

Video Sphinx Pro

★★★★

Verdict: Capture video inexpensively without cracking the case on your PC.

Pros: Excellent video and sound quality; easy album arrangement.

Cons: No capture preview; little printed documentation.

$379 est. street price
FutureTel, (888) 774-4692
Enter 686 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Python

★★★

Verdict: Friendly capture device with an enviable selection of bundled software.

Pros: Captures high-quality video and images; useful Web and e-mail video software; easy installation.

Cons: Limited audio capture; lacks concurrent capture *and* viewing.

$349 list price
Videonics
(800) 338-3348, (408) 866-8300
Enter 687 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Zipshot

★★★

Verdict: A low-cost and decent video-capture device that's better for grabbing still images.

Pros: Affordable; good software bundle.

Cons: Jerky, low-res video.

$99 est. street price
ArcSoft
(800) 762-8657, (510) 440-9901
Enter 688 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

HOW DO YOU FOLLOW UP A COOL MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION?

COOL MULTIMEDIA HANDOUTS.

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Zip drive. The Capacity To Do More.™ Drives for $149.95 and 100MB disks for as low as $12.95.*

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3-D Thrill Ride

SNEAK PREVIEW

Who says you can't mix business and pleasure? Look at today's graphics accelerators. Thanks to speedy boards like STB's Velocity 128 and Diamond's Viper V330, top-notch 2-D and 3-D can coexist on one card without bankrupting you. The Hercules Thriller 3D, based on the new Rendition V2200 chip, is the latest board to give you both in one small package. Its 3-D performance is up there with the best, its 2-D performance is adequate, and the price is excellent.

Buckle Up: Hercules' Thriller 3D uses the powerful new Rendition V2200 chip to deliver blazing 3-D and solid 2-D performance.

For 3-D games performance, the Thriller is right up there with blazing 3Dfx add-in cards like Diamond's Monster 3D and the hot Nvidia graphics boards. The Thriller skated through our 3-D performance tests and ran high-texture games at high resolutions while maintaining acceptable frame rates. If you're into more than games, the card has good 2-D performance for your business apps, as well as a few combo-card bonuses like basic video capture and a video-out port. There's even a connection for 3-D shutter glasses for virtual reality applications.

The Thriller 3D's display-control tools are disorganized and lack the polish of those of its competitors. However, the Thriller is a powerful mix of superb 3-D acceleration, solid 2-D speed, and a few multimedia extras, all for a moderate price. Just be sure to tell your accountant it's a business necessity. **DAVID GERDING**

FILEBOX

Thriller 3D

★★★★

Verdict: 3-D performance that's up there with the best.

Pros: Excellent 3-D acceleration; video-capture and video-out features; reasonable price.

Cons: Limited control utilities.

$219 est. street price
Hercules Computer Technology
(800) 532-0600, (510) 623-6030
Enter 691 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Connectix QuickCam VC

No-Excuses Videoconferencing

Get ready to smile; soon you'll have a videoconferencing system right on your desktop. Connectix makes it impossible to refuse with its new QuickCam VC. The popular eyeball camera gets a new look and a drop in resolution. The $129 QuickCam VC maxes out at a color resolution of 352 by 258, an image size and quality that are optimized for videoconferencing.

Eye Spy: The Connectix QuickCam VC gets a sleek look and a drop in resolution in its new guise as a videoconferencing package.

Choose between a parallel-port model or a USB version; both will have you up and running in minutes. That's partly because the QuickCam VC doesn't need any extra hardware; it works with your existing modem or the company LAN.

Equally convenient is its revamped VideoPhone software, which works with other videoconferencing software. VideoPhone 3.0 makes it easy to call point-to-point, via the Internet, or over a LAN with a few mouse clicks. Along with VideoPhone, Connectix bundles its own software for capturing video stills, plus Microsoft's Internet Explorer and NetMeeting.

The QuickCam VC's video quality is good—most of the time. However, we encountered occasional problems when adjusting the picture as well as sudden drops in quality during each type of connection (point-to-point, Internet, and LAN). Still, for occasional conferencing, the QuickCam VC does a solid job at a great price. **CHRISTINE GRECH WENDIN**

FILEBOX

Connectix QuickCam VC

★★★★

Verdict: Videoconferencing without the hassles, but lower-quality video and audio.

Pros: Irresistible price; foolproof setup; standards-based compatibility.

Cons: Jerky, low-res video.

$129 est. street price
Connectix Corp.
(800) 950-5880, (650) 571-5100
Enter 692 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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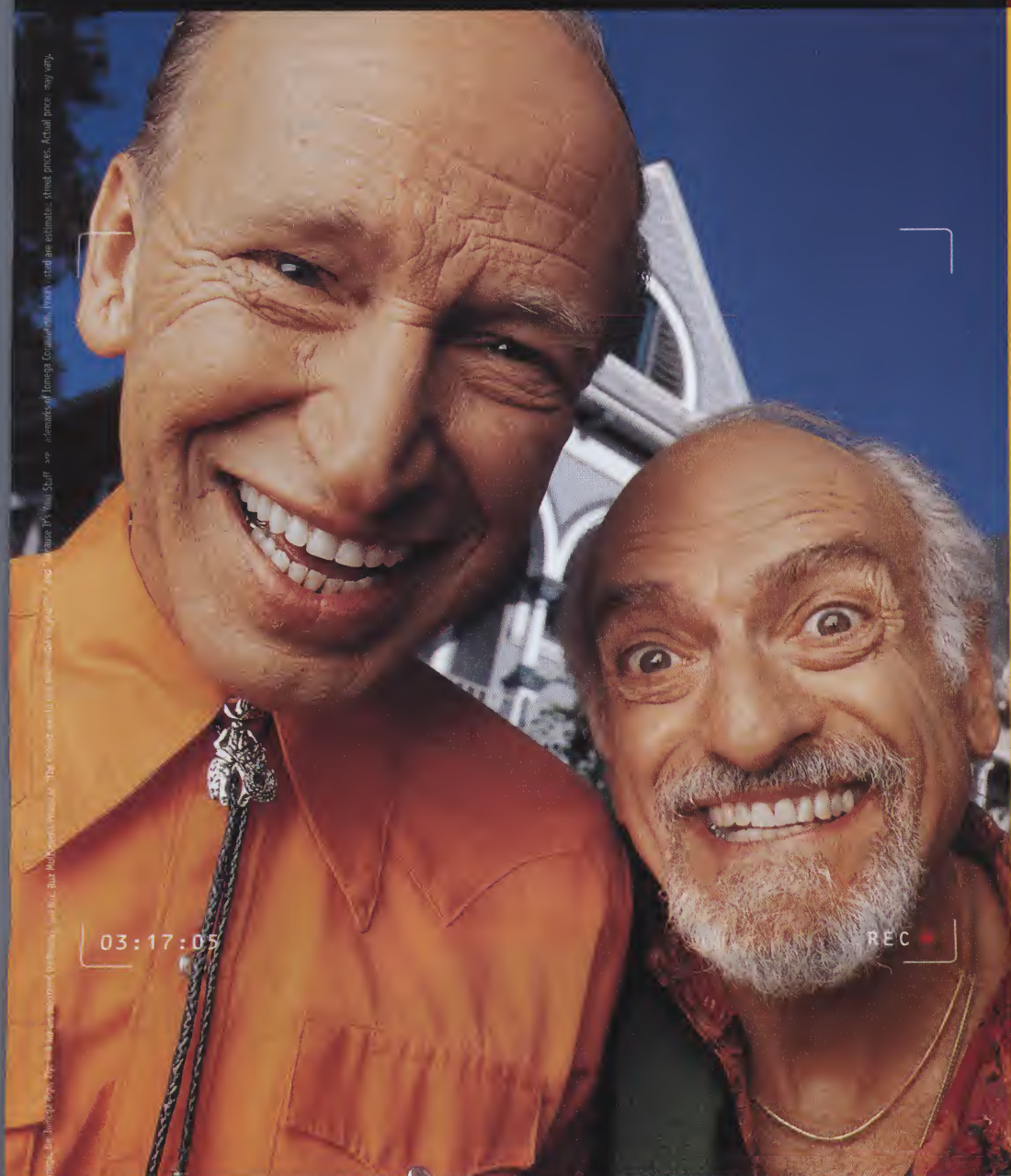
THEM OUT OF YOUR VIDEOS.



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- UltraSCSI Controller connects right to your scanner, DVD, CD-ROM, Jaz or Zip drive. 20MB/sec. transfer rate, plug and play, bootable.

So get Buz, because it looks like you're stuck with Uncle Floyd.

iomega.

The T Rex of Hard Drives

If you're sick of running out of hard drive space, here's good medicine: Quantum's new Bigfoot TX drive (*TX* stands for *T Rex*) holds a whopping 12GB of data. That's one-third more room than the most popular EIDE drives to date.

The Bigfoot has a footprint of 5.25 inches, instead of the usual 3.5 inches of most desktop drives. But the most noticeable feature is this drive's small $399 price tag. Cost to you? A mere 3.3 cents per megabyte. Take that to the bank. If you think 12GB sounds like overkill, consider this: New PCs come from the factory with their drives already a quarter full.

Think Big: The 12GB Bigfoot TX holds about a third again as much data as the largest drive we've reviewed, and offers an unbeatable price per megabyte.

The Bigfoot TX packs its 12GB on three platters stacked no higher than a 3.5-inch drive, and it needs only a 5.25-inch bay. The TX borrows some technology from Quantum's blazing Fireball ST to improve on the prior-generation Bigfoot CY. Quantum combines a faster rotation speed with the Fireball ST's 1.65Gbit-per-square-inch areal density, delivering an 18MBps data-transfer rate. This compares favorably with the fastest 3.5-inch drives. Bigfoot's under-12ms seek time is slower than the fastest 3.5-inch drives. But at $399 that's a minor detail. **MIKE HOGAN**

FILEBOX

Quantum Bigfoot TX

★★★★★

Verdict: A fast, Jurassic-size drive with a price that won't eat into your budget.

Pros: High capacity; extremely low cost per megabyte.

Cons: Middle-of-the-road transfer rates and seek times.

Features As Tested: 12GB capacity, under-12ms average seek time, 18MBps data-transfer rate, 128K buffer, Ultra ATA interface for 33MBps external data transfer.

$399 est. street price
Quantum Corp.
(800) 624-5545 ext. 550
(408) 894-4000
Enter 693 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Hi-Val SuperDisk Drive

Extra Room to Boot

It's slow and anemic, but the ancient 1.44MB floppy disk just refuses to die. Enter the LS-120 drive, which reads and writes to old-fashioned 3.5-inch disks as well as its own 120MB variety.

The Hi-Val SuperDisk Drive is an internal LS-120 IDE drive designed as an add-on or as a bootable A: drive—but you'll need an up-to-date BIOS for the latter. The SuperDisk is a good buy, with a street price of about $129, though the $16 LS-120 disks quickly add up.

Installing the SuperDisk is simple. If you've got Windows 95 OSR2 or Windows NT 4.0 on your machine, LS-120 support is built in. The SuperDisk is incredibly convenient.

More Megabytes: The Hi-Val SuperDisk Drive reads 120MB LS-120 disks as well as regular floppies.

But its performance is hardly super. We pitted an internal Iomega Zip drive against the SuperDisk. The Zip's tested throughput of 298KBps scorched the SuperDisk's paltry 52KBps. And copying a 25MB file onto the SuperDisk took 4 minutes—but only 40 seconds with the Zip.

Even so, the LS-120 is a quantum leap forward in capacity. If the convenience of a drive that reads both 1.44MB floppy disks and 120MB disks outweighs raw speed, you'll welcome a SuperDisk Drive in your PC. **DWIGHT SILVERMAN**

FILEBOX

Hi-Val SuperDisk Drive

★★★

Verdict: Read floppy disks or 120MB disks from a single drive.

Pros: Easy to install; can be a bootable drive; reads 120MB LS-120 disks and older disks.

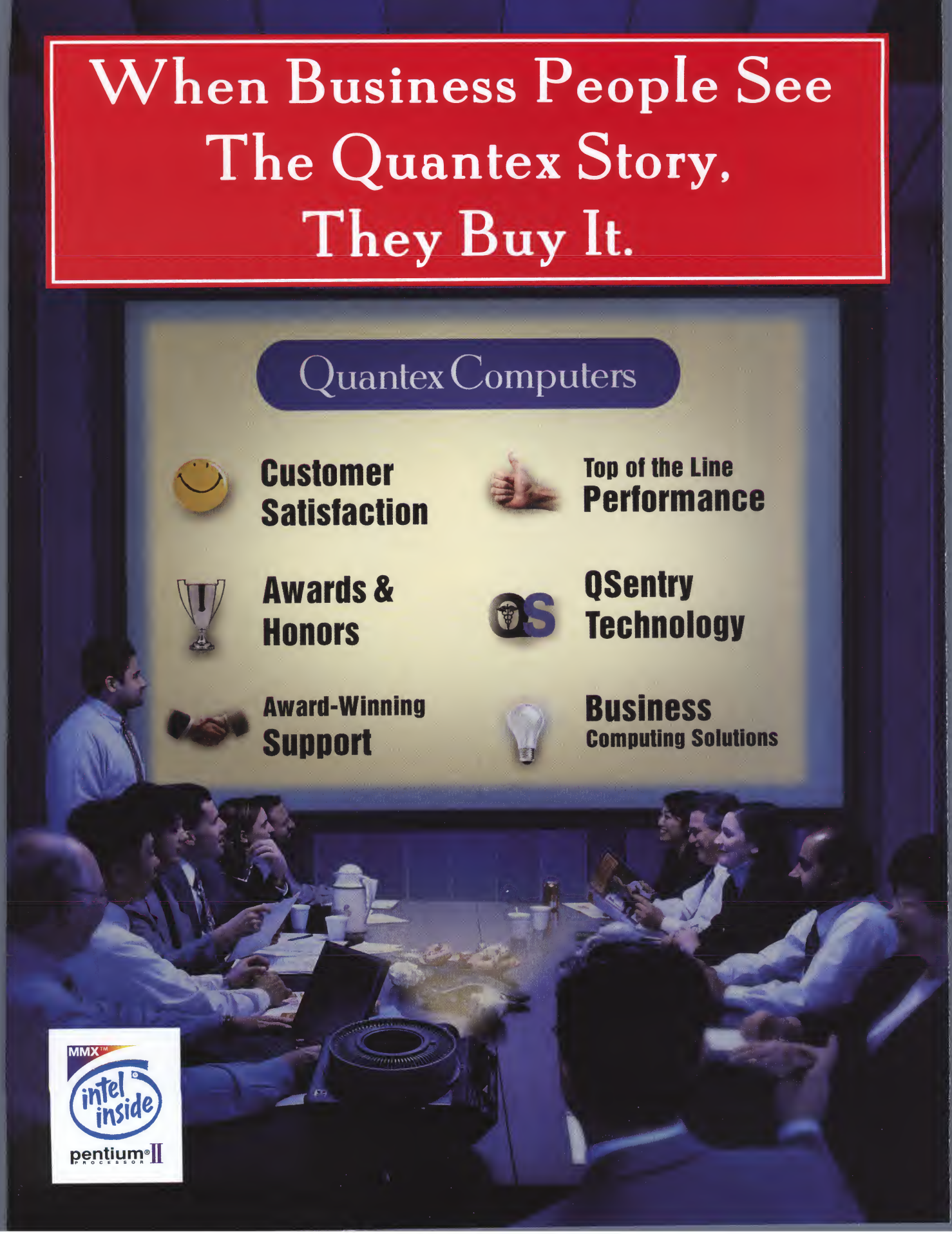
Cons: Slower than the popular Iomega Zip drive; meager documentation.

Features As Tested: Internal LS-120 drive; IDE ribbon cable; 65ms seek time.

$129 est. street price.
Hi-Val
(714) 953-3000 ext. 302
Enter 694 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

When Business People See The Quantex Story, They Buy It.



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1997 Direct Channel Achievement Award for Systems

PC Computing
1997 Most Valuable Product:
QP6/266 SM-4x

PC Magazine
Editor's Choice Award
QP5/233 M-3 (12/97)

PC World
11 Best Buy Awards
Oct '97 - Mar '98

Windows Magazine
5 WINLIST Awards
Sep 97 - Apr '98

Home PC
Lab Runner-up Award
QP5/233 SM-3
(12/97)

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IBM	89%
Micron	81%
Gateway	80%
Acer	74%
Digital	69%
Toshiba	61%
Compaq	58%
Packard Bell	51%

Windows Magazine, 8/97

OVERALL RANKINGS
Technical Support Survey

PC VENDOR	GRADE
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IBM	
Compaq	Good
Gateway 2000	
Micron	
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Digital	Poor
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Windows Magazine, 8/97

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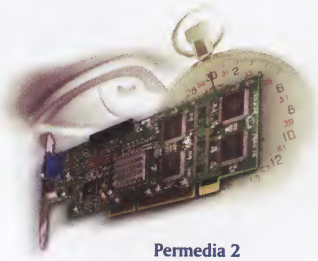

Permedia 2
Advanced Graphics Processor

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The Permedia 2 advanced graphics processor guarantees maximum performance on all your most intensive business graphics and video. Optimized for the Pentium® II processor and Windows NT platforms, it provides exceptional 3D performance as well as ultra-smooth video and great 2D performance. It's just another example of how Quantex is going all-out for business. All of this and a great price adds up to a better desktop buy that's better for your business.

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- PCI Bus with 128-bit graphics accelerator
- Integrated 16-bit Stereo Sound and Speakers
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- Integrated Personal Touchpad
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- 3GB HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Modular Floppy Drive
- PCMCIA K56flex protocol Fax/Modem*
- 24X Modular CD-RDM Drive
- PCI Bus with 128-bit graphics accelerator
- Integrated 16-bit Stereo Sound and Speakers
- Smart Lithium Ion Battery
- USB and Fast IR Ports
- Integrated Personal Touchpad
- MS Windows 95 or Windows NT Workstation 4.0
- MS Office '97 Small Business Edition
- Carrying Case
- 24-hr./7-day Technical Support
- 3-year limited warranty on CPU and Main Memory
- 1-year parts and labor limited warranty on all other components

H-1330 w/233MHz Pentium processor w/MMX Technology..$2399
H-1330 w/233MHz Pentium II processor.....$2699
H-1330 w/266MHz Pentium II processor.....$2899

Quantex H-1331 (with MMX™ Technology) $2899

Business lease: $102/Mo.

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- 512KB Secondary Cache
- 4GB HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Modular Floppy Drive
- PCMCIA K56flex protocol Fax/Modem*
- 24X Modular CD-RDM Drive
- PCI Bus with 128-bit graphics accelerator
- Integrated 16-bit Stereo Sound and Speakers
- Smart Lithium Ion Battery
- 2nd Lithium Ion Battery
- Mini-Docking Station
- USB and Fast IR Ports
- Integrated Personal Touchpad
- MS Windows 95 or Windows NT Workstation 4.0
- MS Office '97 Small Business Edition
- Carrying Case
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Business Desktops

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- 32X Max EIDE CD-RDM Drive
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- MS Windows 95 with MS Plus
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- 17" Digital Monitor (15.8" viewable)
- Choice of Intel Pro 100 Ethernet Controller with Wake-On-LAN™ Technology or K56flex protocol Fax/Modem*
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- MS Office '97 Small Business Edition
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QP6/266 SB-2 (w/ Pentium® II Processor)..$1549
QP6/300 SB-2 (w/ Pentium® II Processor)..$1649

QP6/300 SB-3 (featuring Pentium® II processor) $1899

Business lease: $67/Mo.

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- 17" Digital Monitor w/NEC ChromaClear CRT (15.9" viewable; .25 dp; 1600x1200 max. resolution)
- Choice of Intel Pro 100 Ethernet Controller with Wake-On-LAN™ Technology or K56flex protocol Fax/Modem*
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows NT 4.0 Workstation
- MS Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- 24-hr./7-day Technical Support
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QP6/266 SB-3 (w/ Pentium® II Processor)..$1799
QP6/333 SB-3 (w/ Pentium® II Processor)..$2049

QP6/333 SB-4 (featuring Pentium® II processor) $2249

Business lease: $79/Mo.

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- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 3D Labs Permedia 2 AGP Graphics Card with 8MB SGRAM
- 19" Digital Monitor (18.1" viewable)
- Choice of Intel Pro 100 Ethernet Controller with Wake-On-LAN™ Technology or K56flex protocol Fax/Modem*
- 32X Max EIDE CD-RDM Drive
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows NT 4.0 Workstation
- MS Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- 24-hr./7-day Technical Support
- QSentry Technology (Including Intel LANDesk Client Manager V.3.1)
- *Upgrade to Zip 100MB Internal Drive for $79*

QP6/266 SB-4 (w/ Pentium® II Processor) $1999
QP6/300 SB-4 (w/ Pentium® II Processor) $2099

Microsoft Office 97

Small Business Edition includes: Word 97 · Excel 97 · Outlook 97 · Publisher 97 · Small Business Financial Manager 97 · Automap Streets Plus

Business Servers

QP6/333 SBS-1 (featuring Pentium® II processor) $2499

Business lease: $88/Mo.

- 333MHz Pentium® II Processor (Dual-Processor Upgradable)
- 512KB L2 ECC Cache
- 64MB ECC SDRAM Memory
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Hard Drive (7200 rpm)
- Adaptec Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Controller
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Intel EtherExpress Pro™ 100B Fast Ethernet w/RJ-45
- Server Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- Intel LANDesk Server Manager
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- 24-hr./7-day Technical Support
- *Call for Special Server Support Options*
- *Add Windows NT Server 4.0 w/ 10 Client License $799*

QP6/266 SBS-1 (w/ Pentium® II Processor)..$2249
QP6/300 SBS-1 (w/ Pentium® II Processor)..$2399

QP6/333 SBS-2 ((featuring Pentium® II processor) $3999

Business lease: $130/Mo.

- 333MHz Pentium® II Processor (Dual-Processor Upgradable)
- 512KB L2 ECC Cache
- 64MB ECC SDRAM Memory
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Hard Drive (7200 rpm)
- 15" Digital Monitor (13.8" viewable)
- Adaptec Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Controller
- 32X Max EIDE CD-RDM Drive
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem*
- Intel EtherExpress Pro™ 100B Fast Ethernet w/RJ-45
- Server Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- Microsoft® BackOffice® Small Business Server Suite
- Intel LANDesk Server Manager
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- 24-hr./7-day Technical Support
- *Call for Special Server Support Options*

QP6/266 SBS-2 (w/ Pentium® II Processor)..$3749
QP6/300 SBS-2 (w/ Pentium® II Processor)..$3899

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QP6/233 M-1x $1299
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $46/Mo.

- 233MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 32MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
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- 15" Digital Monitor (13.8" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP5/233 M-1 (with MMX Technology). . . .$1199
QP6/266 M-1x (with Pentium II processor). .$1349
QP6/300 M-1x (with Pentium II processor). .$1449

QP6/266 M-2x $1549
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $54/Mo.

- 266MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 32MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 64-bit 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB RDRAM
- 17" Digital Monitor (15.8" viewable)
- 100MB Internal Zip Drive w/one cartridge
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 M-2x (with Pentium II processor). .$1499
QP6/300 M-2x (with Pentium II processor). .$1649
QP6/333 M-2x (with Pentium II processor). .$1799

QP6/333 M-3x $1849
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $65/Mo.

- 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 64-bit 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB RDRAM
- 17" Digital Monitor (15.8" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 M-3x (with Pentium II processor). .$1549
QP6/266 M-3x (with Pentium II processor). .$1599
QP6/300 M-3x (with Pentium II processor). .$1699

QP6/333 M-4x $2049
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $72/Mo.

- 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- Matrox Productiva G100 AGP Graphics w/8MB SDRAM
- 19" Digital Monitor (18.1" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/266 M-4X (with Pentium II processor). .$1799
QP6/300 M-4X (with Pentium II processor). .$1949

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QP6/233 SM-1x $1399
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $49/Mo.

- 233MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 32MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 64-bit 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB RDRAM
- 15" Digital Monitor (13.8" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
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- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

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QP6/300 SM-1x (with Pentium II processor). $1549
QP6/333 SM-1x (with Pentium II processor). $1699

QP6/266 SM-2x $1649
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $58/Mo.

- 266MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 32MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 128-bit Riva 128 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB SGRAM
- 17" Digital Monitor w/NEC ChromaClear CRT (15.9" viewable; .25 dp; 1600x1200 max. resolution)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 SM-2x (with Pentium II processor). $1599
QP6/300 SM-2x (with Pentium II processor). $1749
QP6/333 SM-2x (with Pentium II processor). $1899

QP6/300 SM-3x $1949
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $68/Mo.

- 300MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 128-bit Riva 128 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB SGRAM
- 17" Digital Monitor w/NEC ChromaClear CRT (15.9" viewable; .25 dp; 1600x1200 max. resolution)
- 100MB Internal Zip Drive w/one cartridge
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 SM-3x (with Pentium II processor). $1799
QP6/266 SM-3x (with Pentium II processor). $1849
QP6/333 SM-3x (with Pentium II processor). $2099

QP6/333 SM-4x $2299
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $81/Mo.

- 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 3D Labs Permedia 2 AGP Graphics Card with 8MB SGRAM
- 19" Digital Monitor (18.1" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers with ACS-250 subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 SM-4x (with Pentium II processor). $1999
QP6/266 SM-4x (with Pentium II processor). $2049
QP6/300 SM-4x (with Pentium II processor). $2149

Best Buy Specials

M-Series Best Buy $1999
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $70/Mo.

- 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports/ Intel 440LX PCI Chipset
- 32MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- Toshiba MPACT2 3D Media Accelerator w/8MB RDRAM
- 19" Digital Monitor (18.1" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 2nd-Generation DVD-ROM Drive w/MPACT2 Decoding
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

SM-Series Best Buy $2199
(featuring Pentium® II processor)
Lease: $77/Mo.

- 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports/ Intel 440LX PCI Chipset
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- Toshiba MPACT2 3D Media Accelerator w/8MB RDRAM
- 19" Digital Monitor (18.1" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 2nd-Generation DVD-ROM Drive w/MPACT2 Decoding
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

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- 100MB Internal Zip Drive w/ one cartridge.....$ 79
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- HP Laserjet 6L Laser Printer.....$ 379
- Microsoft® Sidewinder™ 3D Joystick.....$ 59

(all upgrades covered by manufacturer's warranty)

MMX™ intel inside pentium® II PROCESSOR

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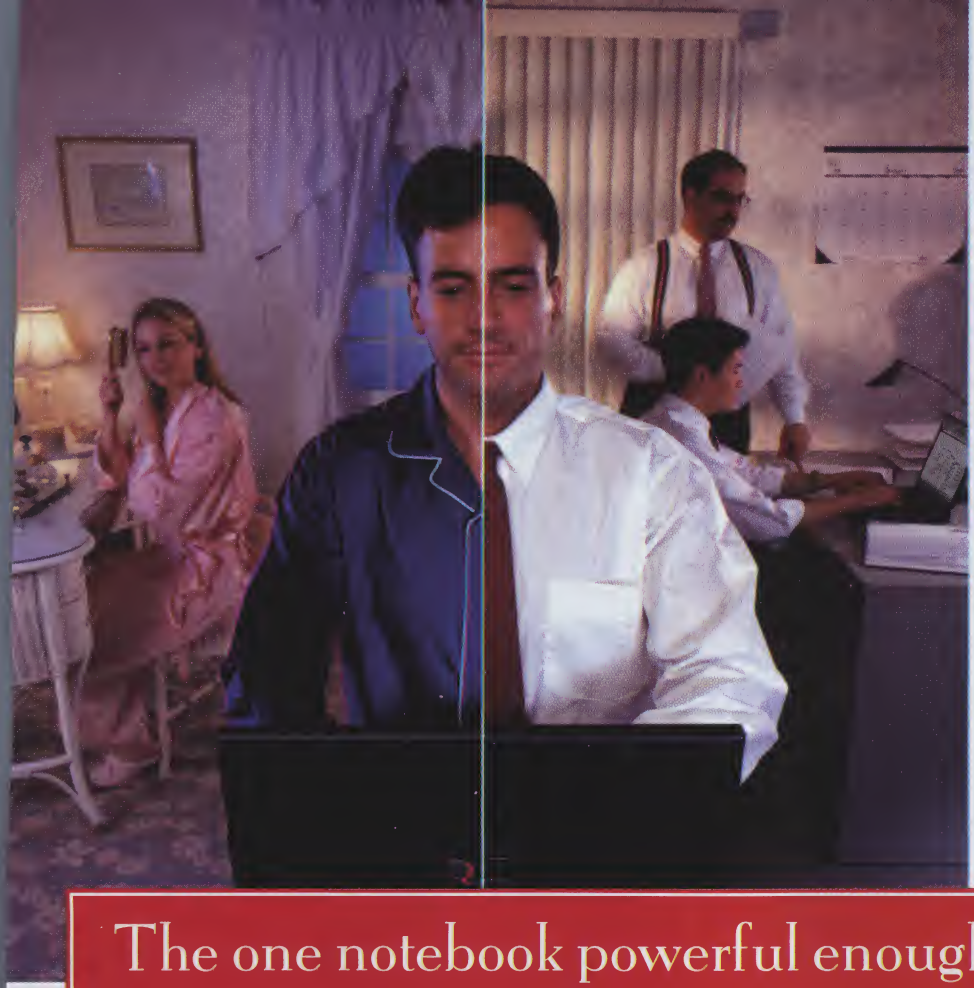

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Instant Desktop Publishing

SNEAK PREVIEW

For small businesses, it's simple and smart to create business cards, stationery, and company newsletters with a personal desktop publisher. But some programs are about as professional and sophisticated as a pack of crayons. That's not the case with Microsoft Publisher 98. It's easier than ever to create business projects with Publisher 98, and they look as polished and fresh as documents from a design house.

One Click Publisher 98 includes new features that streamline project creation, while giving you greater control over more documents. There are 1,600 Wizard-based templates for Web newsletters, business cards, letterheads, labels, signs, invitations, restaurant menus, even paper airplanes and origami. Each template guides you through a variety of other layout options such as color scheme, number of text columns, and customer address placeholder.

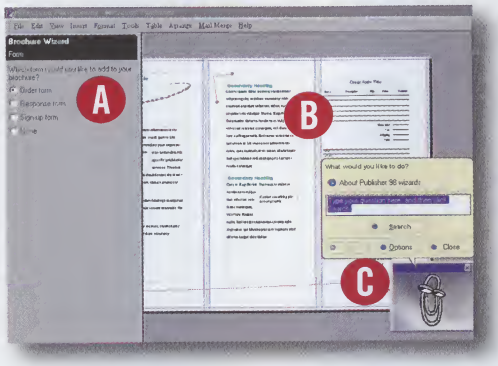
All those options could be overwhelming, but Publisher 98's new Catalog window makes it easy to navigate through the template choices. The Publications by Wizard tab offers an expandable list of about 120 document types. Click on one, and you get a screenful of template thumbnails. Double-click on your favorite thumbnail layout, and the layout's wizard prompts you for layout options. And Publisher 98's wizards offer a new bonus: A real-time Preview Window Wizard that displays any modifications you make as you're making them.

To publish a set of uniform documents for your company (newsletters, business cards, and letterhead stationery, for example) you can choose from the Catalog's Publication by Design tab's 40 contemporary, attractive design sets in 6 categories. In addition, Publisher 98 takes a hint from Design Intelligence's innovative iPublish 2.0 (see "The Best 225 Products of the Year," January, page 217), and lets you automatically convert a document into a different format—such as turning a newsletter into a Web page—with one click. This AutoConvert tool is a huge time-saver, though for converting to Web pages, you may need to do some tweaking. Publisher 98 lets you edit as little or as much of the template as you need.

Smart Art Publisher 98 also includes an expanded Design Gallery of premade objects to add to your documents, such as tables of contents, coupons, logos, and phone number tear-offs. These timesaving Smart Objects predict the layout task at hand and help you complete it. The phone number tear-off object, for example, automatically fills in all the tear-off slots after you complete a single one. Design Gallery's Objects By Design tab lists the objects for related design sets, so you can add new elements to your layout and still keep your design.

Publisher 98 is more closely integrated with Microsoft Office 97, with the same Office Assistant, background spelling, multilevel undo, menus, and command bars. On its own, it's a nice, fat upgrade, with 10,000 clip-art images, 1,000 Web images, 340 GIF animations, plus hundreds of up-to-date fonts and Design Gallery objects. A complete installation uses 109MB of hard disk space, so you may want to forgo some features. But if you have the disk space, Publisher 98 is friendly enough for raw beginners, and sophisticated enough for professional users.

BOB WEIBEL

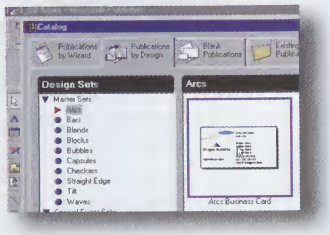


A. View and edit your changes with real-time wizards.

B. Choose from a selection of **prebuilt design objects,** such as forms and ads, which you can easily customize.

C. Publisher 98 uses familiar Office 97 tools, such as **Office Assistant.**

Don't Be Afraid: If you have a fear of desktop publishing, get Microsoft Publisher 98. Its AutoConvert tool, design sets, wizard-based templates, and Office 97 integration make it a treat for novice and professional designers.



Catalog Shopping: The new Catalog feature presents choices of templates, including design sets that offer a range of documents under unified designs.

FILEBOX

Microsoft Publisher 98

★★★★★

Verdict: The ultimate vanity press: Easily create business documents that make an impression.

Pros: Flexible wizards; AutoConvert tool; snappy design sets; affordable price.

Cons: Space-hogging program; lacks the depth of professional desktop apps.

Competition: Design Intelligence iPublish 2.0 makes it easier to convert between print and online documents, but lacks Publisher 98's design breadth.

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Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

In Touch, All the Time

SNEAK PREVIEW

There are three laws in business: You can never have too much information about anything; you'll always need the business card you just misplaced; and you won't remember the third law because you never wrote it down.

That's why contact managers exist, and Symantec's ACT 4.0 is one of the best. This new version raises the bar for contact managers with its extensive capabilities and elegant interface.

Class Act Newcomers can learn most of ACT's features in an afternoon, either on their own or with onscreen help. A combination of short and configurable menus—coupled with a few simple toolbars—put all of ACT's power within immediate reach.

Compared with previous versions, ACT 4.0 is simpler. You can now select contacts from a lookup list using the traditional shift-select mode or an alternative single-click method. You can enter e-mail addresses directly, circumventing ACT 3.0's cumbersome entry process. Symantec also has streamlined sharing and synchronizing data on a LAN.

You're Wired One of the most obvious improvements to ACT is a suite of Internet tools. You can now go online and bring a wealth of information back into your ACT database. Instantly retrieve MapQuest driving directions, business news, and current stock quotes for selected contacts, or perform an LDAP name server search.

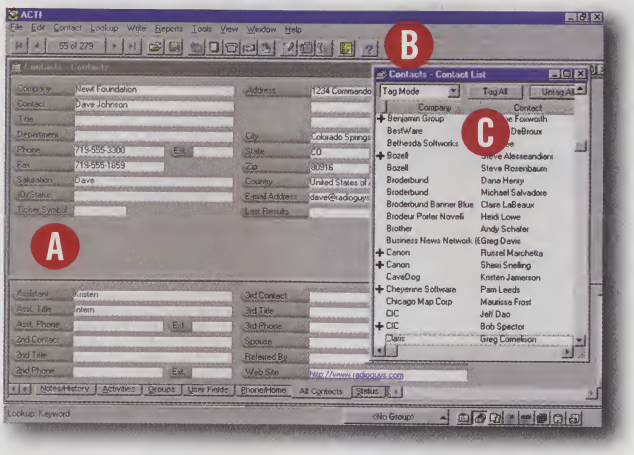
ACT 4.0 now has fully integrated Internet e-mail, taking advantage of Qualcomm's Eudora Pro 4.0 to send e-mail directly from the program. If you don't use Eudora, ACT also comes with its own serviceable (but uninspiring) e-mail client. ACT maintains a complete audit trail of e-mail correspondence with each contact in the Notes section. Faxing is just as integrated as e-mail. Using WinFax Pro 8, you can send faxes with preferred WinFax settings and cover sheets drawn directly from the desired contact.

One of the most handy features of ACT 4.0 is an applet called SideACT. It lives on your desktop at all times and lets you perform basic tasks without launching the full ACT program. For example, double-click on SideACT's System Tray icon, and enter free-form notes in its desktop window. When you're done, store the information within a specific contact in ACT as a meeting, call, or to-do. ACT also includes synchronization and communication tools for common PDA devices like 3Com's PalmPilot and all Windows CE handhelds.

While ACT 4.0 scores big with some major improvements, there are a few areas that sales forces may find lacking. Despite its powerful contact management features, ACT still lacks sales performance tracking tools and telemarketing scripts for call center operations. However, the caller ID contact lookup is handy for dealing with incoming calls. GoldMine 4.0 is a stronger performer in these areas, but it's far more difficult to master and more overwhelming in general.

And while you can import databases into ACT, it isn't as seamless as it could be. ACT struggled with importing Microsoft Outlook 97 contacts, and though ACT handles multiple e-mail entries, it imports only one address per contact.

Nonetheless, Symantec hits a home run with ACT 4.0. It lacks some sales-specific tools, but for most of us, ACT's ease of use and thorough integration of tools make it a terrific choice for keeping your contacts in order. **DAVE JOHNSON**

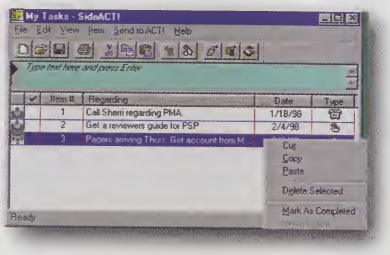


Save the Date: If you need to keep your business contacts in order, there's no easier way than with Symantec's ACT 4.0. This latest version spices up its familiar interface with lots of subtle (and a few obvious) improvements.

A. The open-ended **contact screen** allows for an almost unlimited number of fields, contact methods, notes, and interaction history.

B. The **toolbars and menus** are easy to navigate and fully customizable.

C. Search the **Contact List** by name, company, location, or any keyword to produce customized contact lists.



Smaller, Faster, Better: SideACT pops up on the desktop to field meetings, calls, and to-do's when ACT itself isn't running.

FILEBOX

Symantec ACT 4.0

★★★★★

Verdict: The most integrated and easy-to-use way to stay on top of your contacts in one powerful suite.

Pros: Easy to learn; tight integration with Internet services, including Symantec WinFax Pro, Microsoft Word, and Qualcomm Eudora.

Cons: Lacks sales force automation and analysis tools.

Competition: Easier to use than GoldMine 4.0; more robust than Microsoft Outlook.

$200 est. street price
Symantec Corp.
(800) 441-7234, (541) 334-6054
Enter 699 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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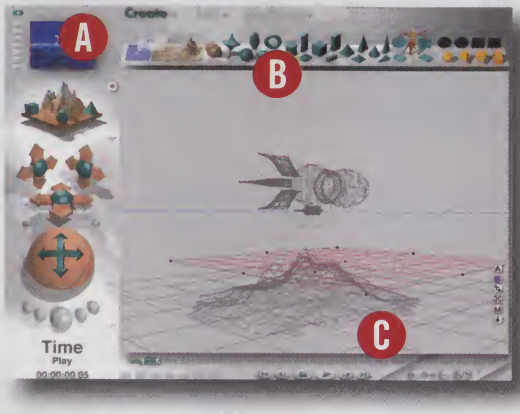
Infolink 240 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Put Your Graphics in Motion

SNEAK PREVIEW

MetaCreations' Bryce is best known for creating 3-D landscapes so surreal they're almost, well, real. The latest edition, simply dubbed Bryce 3D, furthers that illusion by adding animation to its considerable bag of atmospheric tricks.

As before, Bryce's specialty is enabling armchair artists to create something that looks like a real 3-D landscape—either one on this planet or some distant one. You can choose from a wealth of preset terrains, rocks, skies, mountains, bodies of water, and so on. Then customize your creations with varying views, controls, filters, lights, and objects, which can include imported 3-D models from MetaCreations' Ray Dream Studio, Caligari's trueSpace3, and other 3-D products. It takes a bit of trial and error to feel comfortable with Bryce 3D's many options, in part because of its highly visual interface, which doesn't conform to Windows 95 standards. But once you master this product, you'll have fun creating dazzling landscapes.

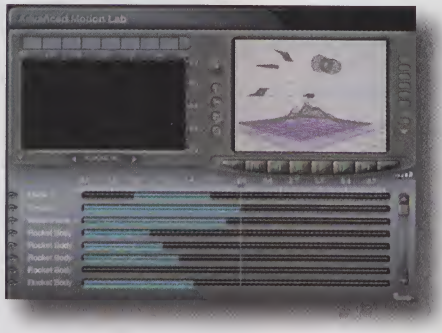


A. Measure your progress in the **real-time preview window.**

B. Add any number of **effects and shapes** with Bryce's funky toolbar.

C. The **animation time line** is simple to understand and lets you easily add paths and keyframes.

It's Your World: MetaCreations' Bryce 3D makes it easier than ever to create beautiful (and eerily realistic) 3-D landscapes. This version also adds some of the friendliest animation tools around.



Total Control: For detailed animation, the Advanced Motion Lab lets you plot paths through your landscape and move every last object.

Move Mountains In Bryce 3D, MetaCreations takes artistic license one step further by adding the ability to animate what you create. The program uses a keyframe system for designing animations, which should be familiar to anyone who has done animation, and isn't difficult for novices to grasp. Bryce uses a time line at the bottom of the screen that lets you move back and forth through time or frames, as you move objects or change their attributes. You can animate terrains and skies as well.

The animation tools are set up in a fun, intuitive interface that has you up and running in no time. All 3-D animation programs could take a cue from Bryce's imaginative setup.

The program's Advanced Motion Lab is a more traditional keyframe sequencer that lets you refine your animations by adjusting the speed or velocity of changes. The animation is then rendered—a process that takes some time—and can be output as AVI or QuickTime movies.

The results are eerily realistic, with clouds and fog rolling in, the sun rising and setting, stars and planets moving, seasons changing, and so on. And all this animation broadens Bryce's application scope. While before it was primarily a tool for creating backgrounds for Web sites, posters, and the like, the new animating features turn Bryce 3D into an effective presentation and video creator as well. Though its built-in tools tend to churn out landscapes that look like fantasy worlds, you can add purpose to its playfulness by importing 3-D objects in OBJ, DXF, or 3DMF formats. Unfortunately, the program cannot export your 3-D object data.

Tricky Textures Bryce 3D has more 3-D features than earlier iterations. The new Hypertextures feature, for example, lets you create penetrable atmospheres that objects, cameras, or lights can move through with interesting effects. There are also a handful of new atmospheric effects such as lunar map textures and refractive rainbows, and more direct controls for things like cameras and lights. This version also supports 3-D acceleration via OpenGL and DirectX for preview rendering and real-time animation.

Animation can sometimes bring an element of complexity into 3-D programs. But MetaCreations' Bryce 3D is still one of the best and most affordable ways to tiptoe into the third dimension. CHRIS O'MALLEY

FILEBOX

MetaCreations Bryce 3D

★★★★

Verdict: Create a moving experience in 3-D.

Pros: Easy to create surreal 3-D landscapes and then animate them; Advanced Motion Lab lets you get tricky.

Cons: Nonstandard interface; cannot export 3-D object creations; Bryce 3D plus a separate 3-D modeling program could be pricey.

Competition: 3-D modeling programs like Ray Dream Studio and Caligari trueSpace3 have animation, but none accomplish the task as easily and as imaginatively as Bryce 3D.

System Requirements: Windows 95 or NT, 16MB of RAM, 50MB of hard disk space, CD-ROM drive.

$199 est. street price, $99 for upgrade
MetaCreations Corp.
(800) 846-0111, (408) 430-4100
Enter 700 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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July 1996 17GLi
May 1996 20GLs

Virus Patrols Walk the Beat

Malicious viruses travel by more routes into your PC than ever. Where there once was just the floppy disk, today there are Internet downloads, e-mail, Microsoft Office macros, Iomega Zip drives, and your network buddy in the next cubicle. And it takes only one virus to ruin your whole day.

In addition to top-selling utilities such as McAfee ViruScan and Symantec Norton AntiVirus, there are two new products competing for the opportunity to patrol your hard disk: Inoculan AntiVirus 5.0 and Quarterdeck ViruSweep.

Hidden Weapons Inoculan AntiVirus and Quarterdeck ViruSweep work by loading into memory and using heuristic analysis to look for the presence of viruses. For greater security, you can also schedule either program to perform automated scans of your hard disk, removable media, and network drives for more thorough checks. You can instruct both programs to display an onscreen message when a virus is found, like "Call 555-9999 immediately." For added protection and faster scanning, ViruSweep creates an integrity file that records the proper checksum for all the files on your hard disk. On subsequent scans, if the checksums don't match, the odds are good you have a virus.

A virus program is only as good as its database of known viruses, which is often called a signature file. For the best protection, you need to update the signature file frequently. Both programs let you download free monthly signature file updates for the first year via the Web. Quarterdeck uses its separate TuneUp Service Manager utility to update ViruSweep, in addition to all Quarterdeck applications on your hard disk, which is a useful service, provided you have Internet access.

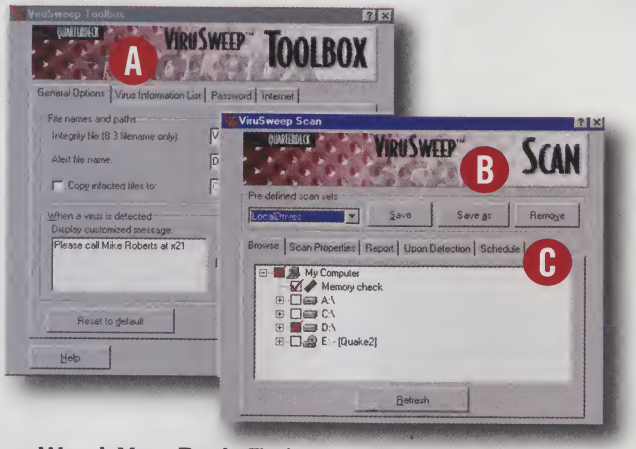
Unfortunately, Inoculan AntiVirus requires you to check for these updates manually. But while both programs offer additional information on their Web sites (such as virus news, hoax warnings, and a virus encyclopedia), Inoculan AntiVirus goes one better by including an online virus lab for uploading potential viruses for evaluation.

Both programs are easy to operate, but Inoculan AntiVirus has a friendlier interface. It has a handy toolbar for running checks, visiting the Internet, downloading updates, and setting options.

Background Checks While ViruSweep's interface isn't quite as polished, it has a leg up in the detection arena—not only does it use signature files, checksums, and other sophisticated detection tools, but it also recognizes illicit, viruslike behavior. If a new virus does manage to slip through the cracks, ViruSweep stops it cold when it attempts to perform functions such as illegally formatting a drive or renaming files.

While these programs are new to the virus competition ring, both draw on a wealth of antiviral experience and either would serve you well. Though we liked AntiVirus's interface and Web site, Quarterdeck ViruSweep edged out Inoculan AntiVirus by a hair: Its multifaceted detection scheme offers better protection from new and undiscovered viruses.

ViruSweep also offers advantages over market leaders Symantec Norton AntiVirus or McAfee ViruScan. For example, McAfee lacks ViruSweep's scan scheduler, and Norton's interface doesn't let you scan specific subfolders on a drive—it's all or nothing. If the thought of an office-crippling virus attack frightens you, Quarterdeck ViruSweep is a reassuring friend to have. **DAVE JOHNSON**



Watch Your Back: Find rogue viruses before they find your data. Quarterdeck ViruSweep (above) and Inoculan AntiVirus monitor your system for signs of infection.

A. The Toolbox is a separate program that configures the way ViruSweep works.

B. Choose the drives and folders you want to scan and save the result as a **customized scan.**

C. Scan the drives immediately or use the **Schedule tab** to check for viruses later.

Get Tested: Inoculan AntiVirus checks your PC for viruses and keeps a log of virus encounters. It also offers additional virus services via the Web.

FILEBOX

Inoculan AntiVirus 5.0 for Windows 95

★★★★

Verdict: Effective, transparent virus protection with a great interface.

Pros: Easy-to-use toolbar; great Web site includes online virus lab for virus evaluation.

Cons: You have to retrieve virus signature updates manually.

$40 est. street price
Computer Associates Int'l
(800) 225-5224, (516) 342-5224
Enter 697 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Quarterdeck ViruSweep

★★★★

Verdict: Powerful protection that stops unknown viruses other checkers might miss.

Pros: Effective virus detection; includes TuneUp Service Manager.

Cons: Interface lacks polish.

$40 est. street price
Quarterdeck Corp.
(800) 683-6696, (573) 443-3282
Enter 698 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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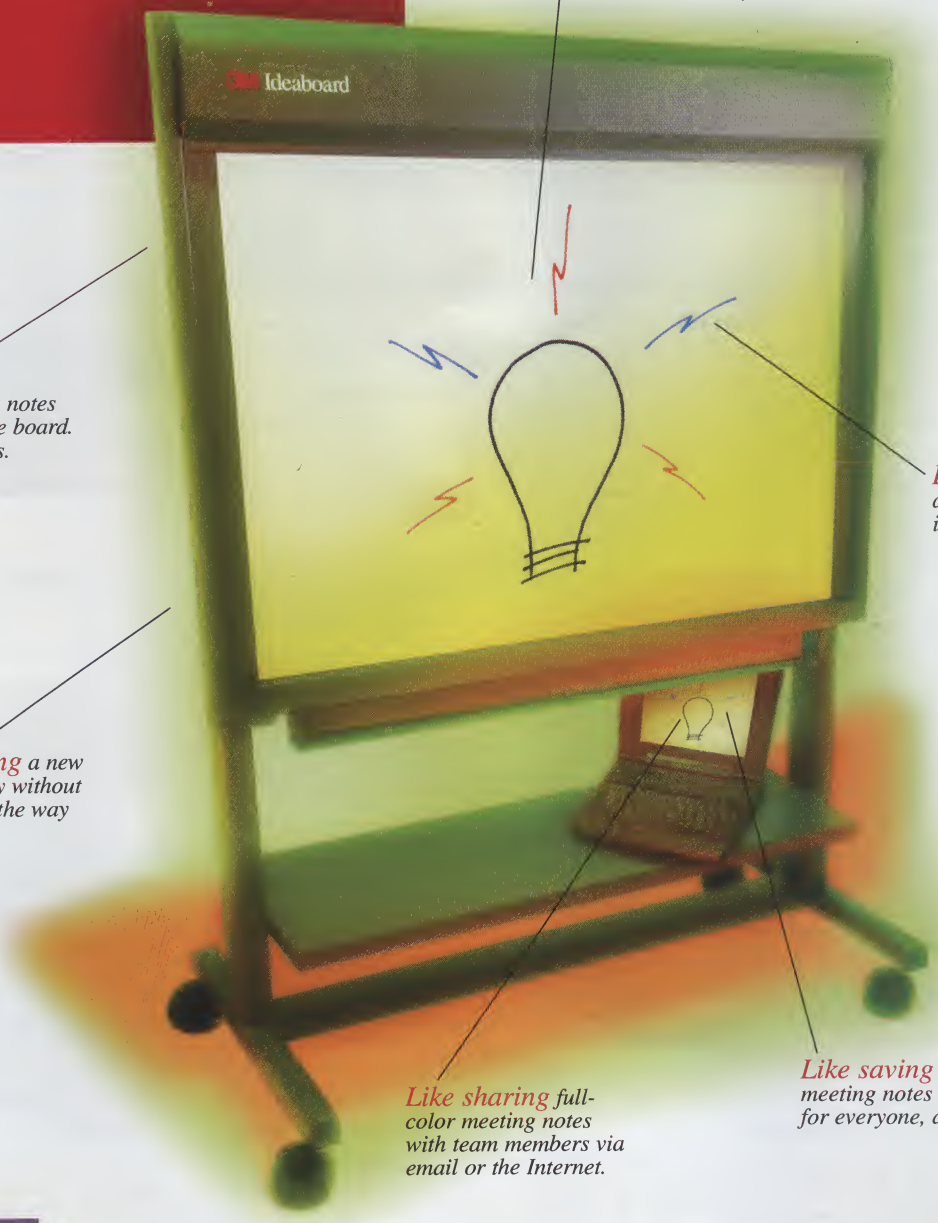

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Reach Your PC from Anywhere

Pathetic as it is, we can't stand to be away from our PCs—even for a few hours. We monkey with spreadsheet figures at home between feeding the kids and taking out the garbage. We dash off e-mails to our colleagues when we're trapped in airports. And we demand instant access to our everyday desktop system when we're on the road closing deals. Remote access is the key to conducting business. And it just got easier. Check out Compaq's Carbon Copy 5.0 and Artisoft's CoSession Remote 32 8.1; both provide all the tools you need to control other PCs, access networks, and transfer files—all remotely.

You don't need to jump through hoops to configure Carbon Copy or CoSession. These Windows 95 applications work with your basic analog and ISDN modems, with serial and parallel cables (bonus: Carbon Copy comes with its own parallel cable), across IPX/SPX and TCP/IP networks, or wirelessly using IrDA ports. Additionally, CoSession supports NetBIOS/NetBEUI. Keeping in touch via your handheld PC? Carbon Copy also has a Windows CE version for quick and easy access.

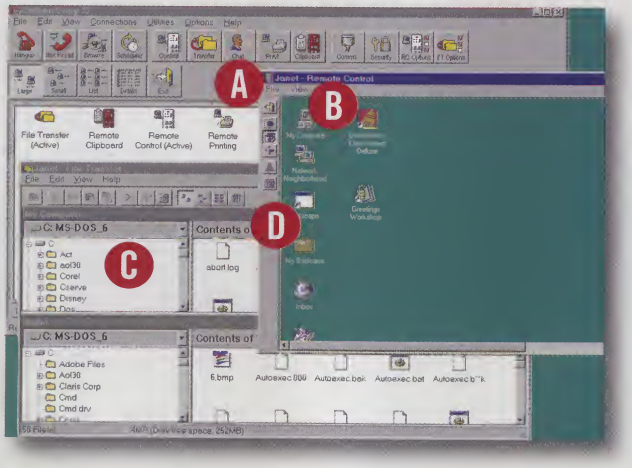
Talk About Options Controlling your PC remotely is nothing new. But here's a twist: Both products now have voice support (Carbon Copy also includes a microphone) so you can talk with the other party while you work on their PC. Voice support could stand some improvement: In our tests, the sound wasn't always crystal clear.

Because you have to keep your desktop PC turned on to access it from afar, you need to know your data remains secure. Both packages offer adequate security in the form of password protection and data encryption. You can also restrict users to specified remote operations. Carbon Copy has the edge here because it can work with Windows NT user profiles to set restrictions based on a visitor's group affiliation. In either package, administrators can configure a firewall so the programs can make connections through it.

Carbon Copy and CoSession have Explorer-style file management trees and support dragging and dropping to quickly copy and move files. Both products also have powerful synchronization features that create identical files on two PCs. In our testing across a phone line and a network, both products performed about the same with file transfers, but CoSession opened host applications approximately 30 percent faster.

Copy This Carbon Copy's interface is friendlier, and its wizards help you create phone book entries and automate repetitive tasks. It continues to support many-to-one and one-to-many sessions, making it easy for groups to work together. Another Carbon Copy plus: a new remote installation feature that lets administrators easily install Carbon Copy across a Windows NT network. CoSession's interface isn't exactly intuitive, sporting fewer buttons and only a single wizard to help set up new users.

Carbon Copy 5.0 and CoSession Remote 32 are both vastly improved over previous versions. However, Carbon Copy's snappy performance and ease of use make it the better program to rely on for accessing your PC from just about anywhere. WAYNE KAWAMOTO



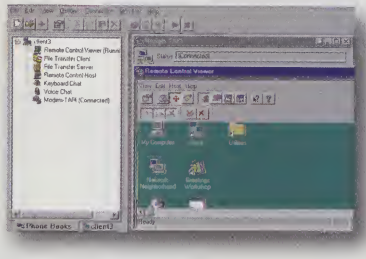
Remote Possibilities: Reach your system and files no matter where you are with Compaq Carbon Copy (above) and Artisoft CoSession Remote. You can even use them to control other PCs remotely.

A. Communicate by chat when you need to talk with someone at the host PC.

B. Remotely control the host PC.

C. Transfer files using a Windows Explorer–like file function.

D. Quickly adjust the screen mode to pan and scroll the host screen or fit it into a window.



Solid Performer: CoSession Remote 32 launches remote programs quickly, but the interface is often confusing.

FILEBOX

Compaq Carbon Copy 5.0

★★★★★

Verdict: The fastest, easiest way to reach your desktop from afar.

Pros: Intuitive and easy to use; automates repetitive tasks; comes with a cable and microphone; many-to-one sessions; network installation.

Cons: Slower to open host apps.

$149 est. street price
Compaq Computer Corp.
Enter 703 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Artisoft CoSession Remote 32 8.1

★★★★

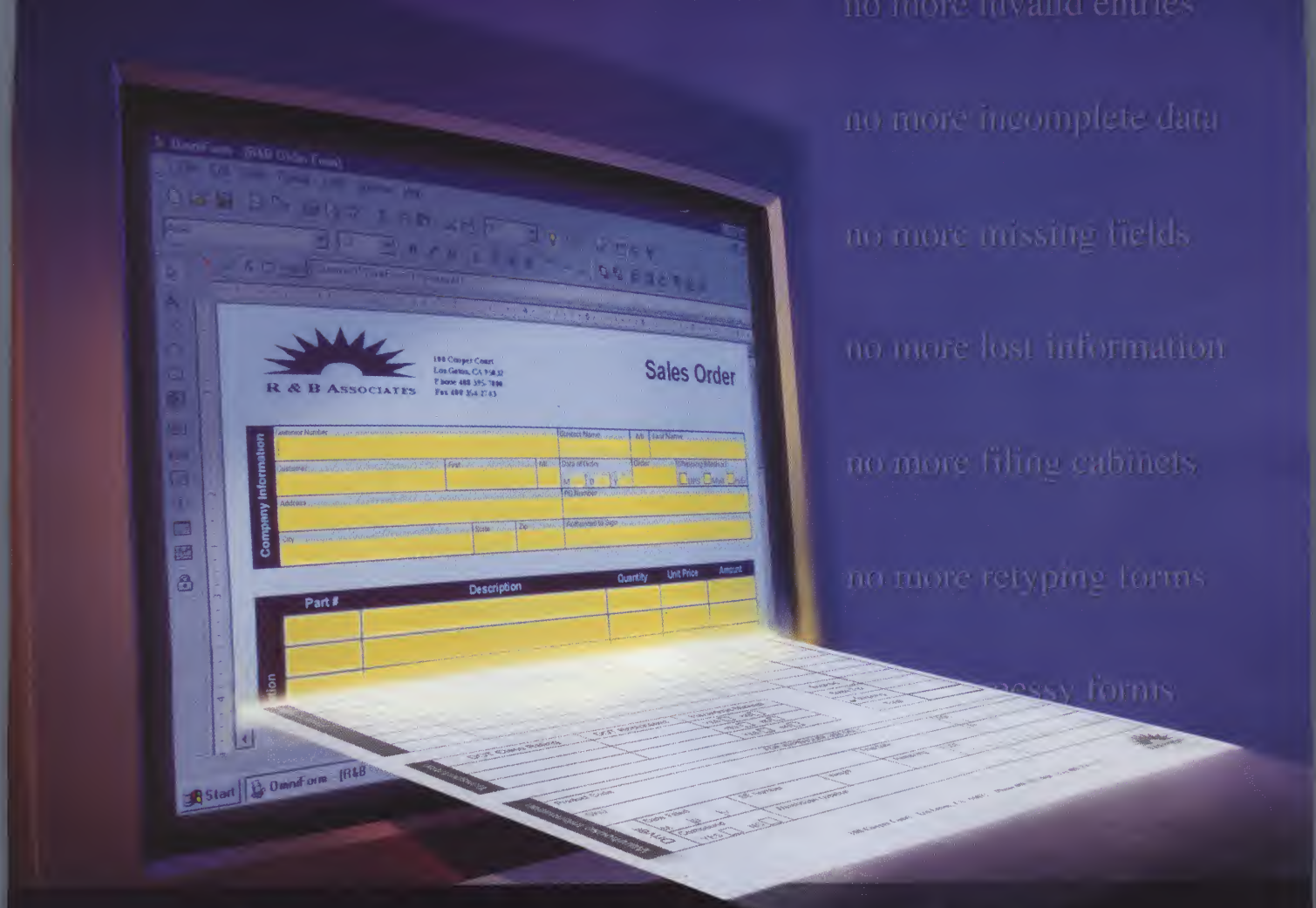
Verdict: Solid performance, but the interface could use some touching up.

Pros: Fast to open host apps.

Cons: Interface is confusing; no printed manual.

$95 est. street price
Artisoft
(800) 322-9440, (732) 744-9770
Enter 704 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*



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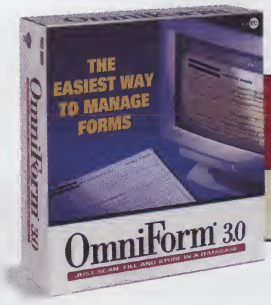

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Infolink 261 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

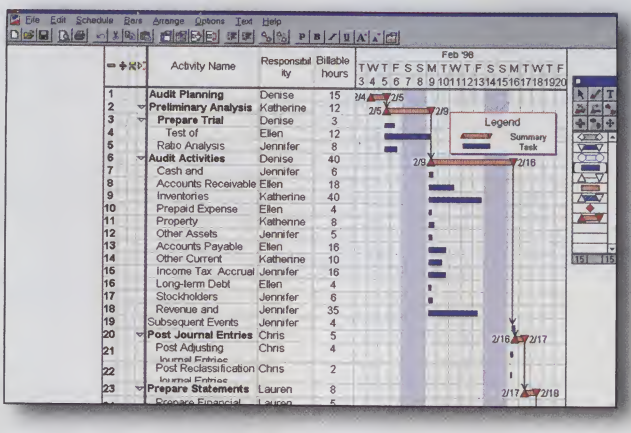
Project the Right Outcome

Whether you're managing the design of a space shuttle or coordinating the details of a move, the goal is always the same: Keep it on time and under budget. Difficult? Yes. Impossible? Not if you're using project management software to help you track tasks, compile costs and expenses, and manage the people involved in your project. Aec Software's FastTrack Schedule 5.0 is easy to learn and use, and offers considerable control over even the most complex undertakings. FastTrack is especially useful for managers who work only with Gantt-style charts and don't require complex resource leveling and analysis features.

On Track Create schedules by entering start and end dates in FastTrack's columns, or graphically draw bars directly into the chart. FastTrack lets you arrange tasks in an outline hierarchy to create summary tasks, each with its own indented subtasks that you can collapse and expand.

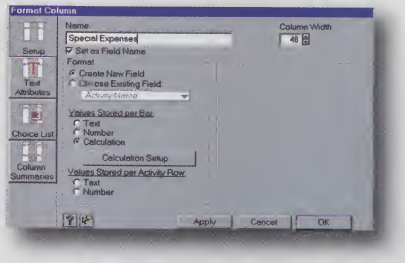
Linking tasks is tougher because FastTrack asks you to drag and draw your links. However, as with any competent project manager, the program immediately recalculates entire projects based on any changes. Also, an included calendar helps you accommodate employee vacation days, sick days, holidays, and nontraditional company work weeks.

As a project moves along, FastTrack simultaneously displays original scheduled task durations along with revisions and actual durations. You can also view the progress and relative completion of a task. Need to make adjustments? Simply select and drag Taskbars to move, shorten, or extend them.



Watch Your Progress: Keep your projects on time and under budget. Aec Software's FastTrack Schedule 5.0 does a fine job of tracking project tasks in Gantt charts.

Work Your Way: FastTrack Schedule lets you configure and customize new columns to track almost anything in your project.



Within each Gantt chart, FastTrack offers 17 predefined columns to track dates, durations, and completed task percentages. You can define your own columns to manage costs, employees responsible for completing tasks, and other related notes. You can also apply new mathematical functions to columns for tracking projects. For closer analysis, use filters or create special layouts that isolate portions of the schedule. You can even export data to spreadsheets and databases.

Get Noticed When the time comes to lay it on the line and present your project to upper management, FastTrack lets you incorporate blocks of text to add helpful notes, and the program gives you control over titles, headers, legends, and footers. You can also add graphics and corporate logos.

Need to display graphic Gantt charts in your Web or word-processed pages? No problem. FastTrack exports charts in GIF, JPEG, or TIFF formats. And version 5.0 lets you export schedules to HTML to create project tables for Web documents as well.

FastTrack Schedule ships in Macintosh and Windows versions, and it's easy to exchange data between the two platforms. You can also purchase FastTrack in network packs to install on your server. The network packs ship with password protection, file locking, and usage monitoring features.

While FastTrack Schedule is a solid package, you may still want to consider higher-end (and more expensive) project management software—particularly for more elaborate projects. FastTrack works only with Gantt charts, and the program can't display Pert charts, which depict a project's flow. More important, FastTrack lacks features that track resources for analyzing or leveling workloads. If you need these features, check out Microsoft Project 98 (see "Get with the Project," December 1997, page 166).

Aec Software FastTrack Schedule 5.0 is a top-notch program for managing simple projects and tasks. While it has some limitations, it's a good fit for those whose project management focuses more on tasks than resources. With FastTrack Schedule overseeing the project, all you have left to worry about is hiring the right people and hitting deadlines. **WAYNE KAWAMOTO**

FILEBOX

FastTrack Schedule 5.0

★★★★

Verdict: Your best bet if you don't need the power of a high-end project management package.

Pros: Easy to use; tracks projects in Gantt charts with revised and actual progress; flexible and customizable.

Cons: Linking is clumsy; lacks resource management features; doesn't support Pert charts.

Competition: Microsoft Project 98 is more expensive, but more powerful and slightly easier to use. Project 98 also supports Pert charts and analyzes resource allocations.

$199 est. street price
Aec Software
(800) 346-9413, (703) 450-1980
Enter 705 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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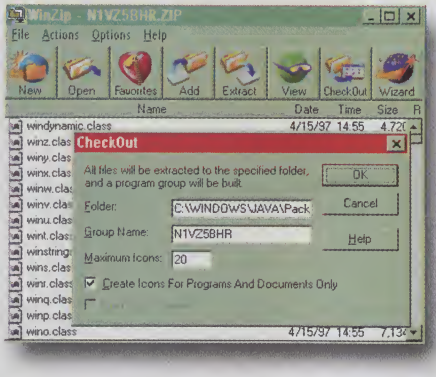
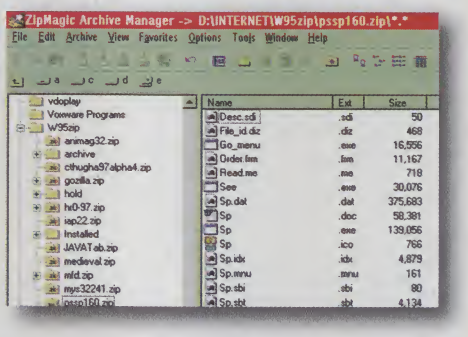
Clean Up Your ZIPs

How long can you go without uploading or downloading a file? An hour? A day? Certainly not a week. You need a compression utility such as Nico Mak Computing WinZip 6.3, Mijenix ZipMagic, or Pacific Gold Coast TurboZip 97. Each program successfully archives and unarchives files in a variety of formats; makes self-extracting EXE files; and decodes Uuencoded e-mail attachments.



Zip It Up: Nico Mak WinZip 6.3 (shown here), Mijenix ZipMagic, and Pacific Gold Coast TurboZip 97 provide easy-to-use features for managing your compressed files.



Keep It Tidy: Unzipping files? Finding out what's inside with ZipMagic is as easy as opening a folder.

Zip in Time WinZip has long stood the standard that all other Windows archive programs aim to beat. Like the previous version, WinZip 6.3 sports a valuable feature, CheckOut. This lets you create a temporary directory space to unpack a ZIP file, install the archived program, test it, and then delete it cleanly—much more thoroughly than Windows 95's Uninstall utility.

But WinZip falls short in archive management. Sure, it searches your hard drive for files and makes a Favorite ZIPs folder. But you still find yourself conducting routine disk cleanups of all your files and temporary directories filled with the unarchived files.

To facilitate cleanup and organization, try Mijenix's ZipMagic. It's a replacement compression add-on for Windows Explorer that turns all your compressed files into directory folders. See the contents of your files just as you would in any folder—only you don't need to decompress them. ZipFolders act just like Windows folders. Move or copy a compressed file from a ZipFolder to a Windows folder and ZipMagic automatically extracts the file. You can also modify or delete compressed files within the ZipFolder. ZipMagic's Archive Manager doubles as a Windows Explorer replacement and archive manager.

Sneak a Peek While ZipMagic lets you view the contents of your compressed file instantly, only TurboZip 97 lets you see a quick view of each compressed file within a zipped file. Similar to Pacific Gold Coast's fast-viewing Windows Explorer replacement, TurboBrowser 97 (see "Help! The Best Tips and Tricks," December 1997, page 222), TurboZip lets you work with files within an archive as if they weren't compressed. You can scan for viruses, print, copy, search, view, and even open a compressed file—all without unzipping it. Storage buffs will appreciate the ability to automatically back up files plus maintain an online catalog of floppy and zipped disks. TurboZip also lets you automatically archive folders as ZipMagic does with its ZipFolders.

A few of the additional features in these three programs solve nonexistent problems. For example, extracting files is as simple as selecting the file you want and then hitting Extract. Yet WinZip and TurboZip contain unnecessary extraction wizards. And nearly every e-mail program today automatically decodes your file attachments, so the Uudecoder in each program is redundant.

Although not as intuitive as ZipMagic, TurboZip does hold the competitive edge for true archivists who need fast viewing of file contents. But if you're a frequent downloader and incessant installer of unwanted programs, stick with the classic WinZip. Its CheckOut feature will save you many headaches. **DAVID SPARK**

FILEBOX

Nico Mak WinZip 6.3

★★★★

Verdict: The long-standing file compression favorite adds an uninstaller and a ZIP manager.

Pros: The CheckOut feature unloads unwanted programs better than Windows 95's anemic uninstall utility.

Cons: Limited file management.

$29 est. street price
Nico Mak Computing
(800) 242-4775, (713) 524-6394
Enter 706 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Mijenix ZipMagic

★★★

Verdict: Manage your ZIP files and replace Windows Explorer in one fell swoop.

Pros: Move or copy files in and out of ZIP files as if they were in a standard folder.

Cons: Windows Explorer integration requires a memory-resident tray program.

$40 est. street price
Mijenix Corp.
(800) 645-3649, (303) 245-8000
Enter 707 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Pacific Gold Coast TurboZip 97

★★★

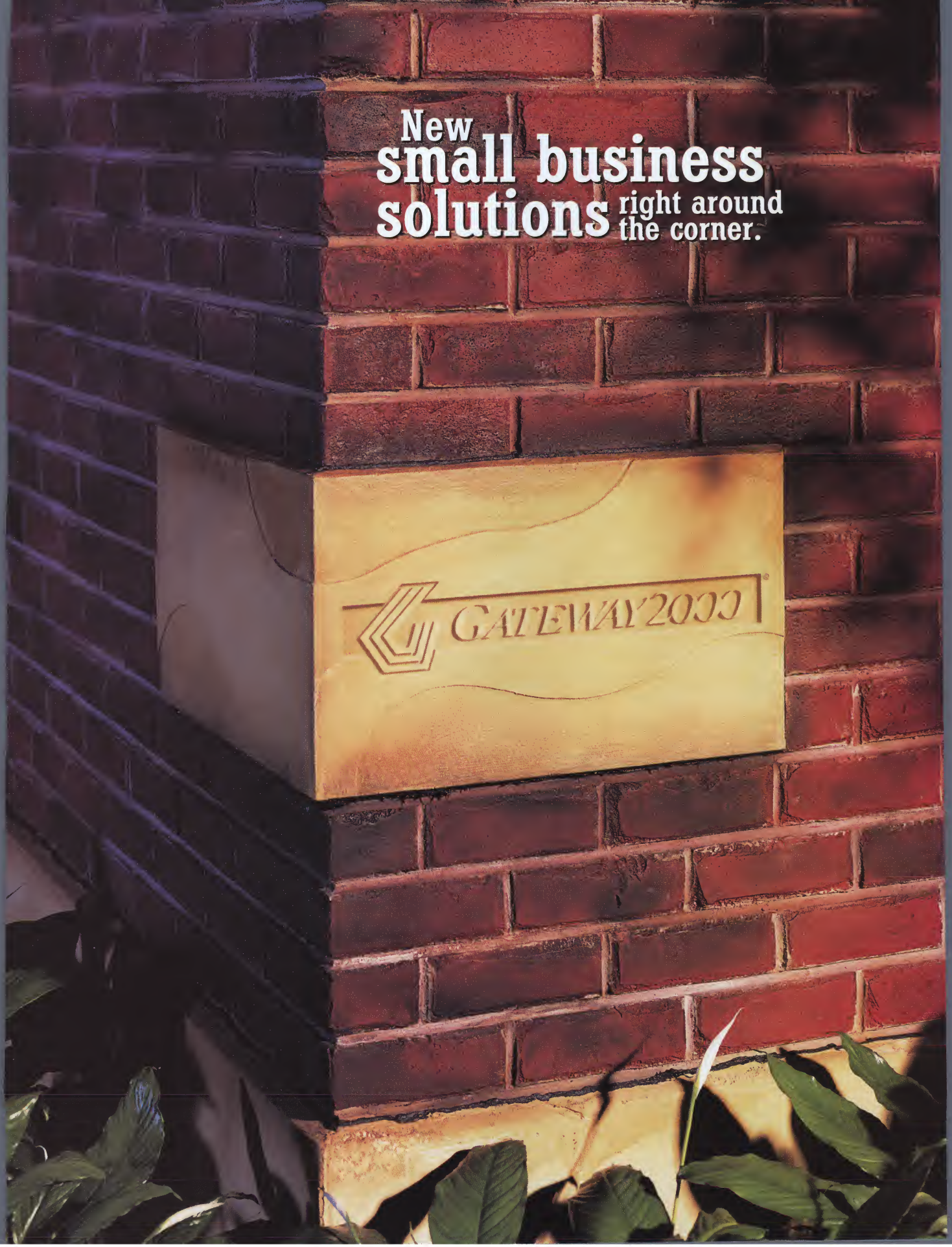
Verdict: A great way to track zipped files on your hard drive, floppies, and ZIP disks.

Pros: Fast on-the-fly file viewing; search for text within archived files.

Cons: Must create archive folders manually.

$40 est. street price
Pacific Gold Coast Corp.
(800) 732-3002, (516) 759-3011
Enter 708 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*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- 3.5" Diskette Drive
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Pictured left to right: GATEWAY™ GP-Series PCs with desktop and mid-tower cases.

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- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- GP-Series Mid-Tower Case
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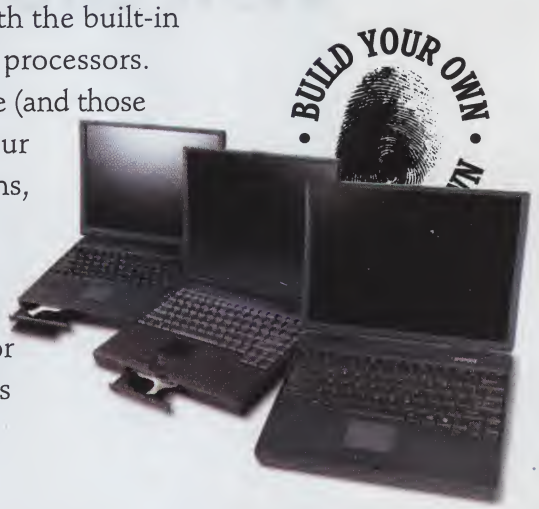

Pictured left to right: Solo 9100, 5100 and 2300 PCs.

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Solo 9100, *PC Magazine* Editors' Choice Award, January 1998

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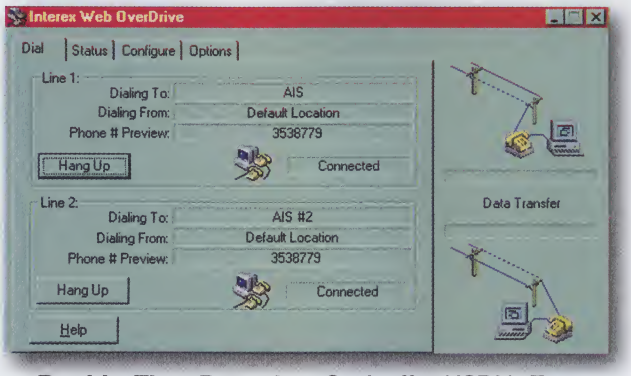
DENEBA

Double Your Modem Speed

SNEAK PREVIEW

Still searching for faster Web access? You don't have to wait for exotic cable modem service or wrestle with the phone company over an ISDN line. Two new analog modem–bonding utilities are inexpensive alternatives. At just $49 each, Interex XLR8 Web OverDrive and Ramp Networks WebRamp PC let you combine two analog modems and phone lines into one fast Internet pipeline. Hook two 56Kbps modems together and you'll rival ISDN's throughput using regular analog phone lines.



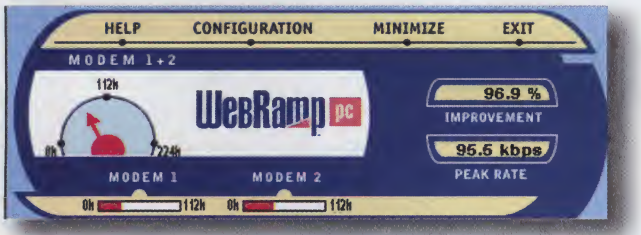
Double-Time Browsing: Can't afford ISDN? Try a bonding utility like Interex XLR8 Web OverDrive (above) and Ramp Networks WebRamp PC.

Faster, Faster! You've read about bonded modems that combine two analog signals into one (see "56K and Beyond," April, page 203). This effectively doubles the speed of single-file downloading over a single data stream. Web OverDrive and WebRamp PC offer the same benefit with a twist: Unlike bonded modems, they don't need multilink point-to-point protocol (MLPPP), which requires cooperation from your ISP.

If you've got an available COM port, installing a second modem is as easy and inexpensive as installing the first one—56Kbps internal modems run as little as $100. Beyond modem installation, the programs are similar. Each has a wizard to select modem settings, DNS settings, and the numbers to dial; and setup options are readily accessible.

The actual throughput you see varies depending on the speed of your modems, phone line conditions, and other factors. In our tests, we hit speeds of up to 95.5Kbps with two 56Kbps modems.

WebRamp PC connects via Windows' Dial Up Networking 1.2, and Web OverDrive installs a new TCP/IP stack to simulate a LAN right on your system. They both achieve the same end, but Web OverDrive connects faster by dialing both lines simultaneously, and it lets you disconnect either line dynamically as long as the other line stays connected. WebRamp PC isn't as fast because it dials the two numbers in succession, but like Web OverDrive, it lets you drop either line and still remain connected.



Speeding Ticket: WebRamp PC pairs analog modems for faster surfing. In our tests, two 56Kbps modems reached 95.5Kbps, almost double their maximum rating.

Inside Line Installing and maintaining a second phone line in your small or home office isn't without setup hassles and monthly costs. If you already have a second line for voice calls, be forewarned these tools will tie up both lines for data. Better make that three phone lines. And while analog modem costs have dropped, you still need to budget that extra $100 for another modem. In addition, most ISPs charge for two accounts, which doubles your monthly service bill. Neither utility supports America Online or CompuServe accounts, but they do work with all standard ISP accounts.

Proprietary alternatives like MLPPP require cooperation from your ISP and/or matching hardware on the back end. Other options like DSL and cable modems aren't widely available yet. If you're not in the league for a corporate T1 line, Web OverDrive and WebRamp PC are low-cost alternatives for boosting your modem speed. **DAVID SPARK**

FILEBOX

XLR8 Web OverDrive

★★★

Verdict: Got an extra modem, phone line, and ISP account? Here's an inexpensive way to double your Web speed.

Pros: Drop either line dynamically while staying connected; dials two numbers simultaneously.

Cons: Doesn't work with America Online or CompuServe; requires two analog phone lines.

$49 est. street price
XLR8 by Interex
(888) 957-8867 ext. 262,
(316) 636-5544
Enter 716 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

WebRamp PC

★★★

Verdict: Boosts your browsing speed by as much as 100 percent, but still a science project for most of us.

Pros: Interface shows your peak connection speed.

Cons: Doesn't work with America Online or CompuServe; requires two analog phone lines.

$49 est. street price
Ramp Networks
(888) 461-7267, (408) 988-5353
Enter 717 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Set Up a Site in Record Time

SNEAK PREVIEW

You already have too many small-office headaches without worrying about your Web presence. That's why you should consider Adobe Systems PageMill 3.0. While it doesn't match everything that Microsoft FrontPage 98 has to offer, PageMill costs $50 less and is certainly no lightweight. It packs most of the important features you need into a smooth tool that's easy to use, making it a good choice if you occasionally create and manage small-business sites.

Always on Top PageMill 3.0 includes the best elements of graphic design and multimedia authoring in an interface much improved over earlier versions. For example, PageMill includes an Inspector, a floating window that lets you change the properties of a selected object on the Web page, whether it's a frame, text, table, or graphic. Similar to the InfoBox in Lotus products, the Inspector is a context-sensitive toolbox that lets you change any part of your Web page quickly and easily.

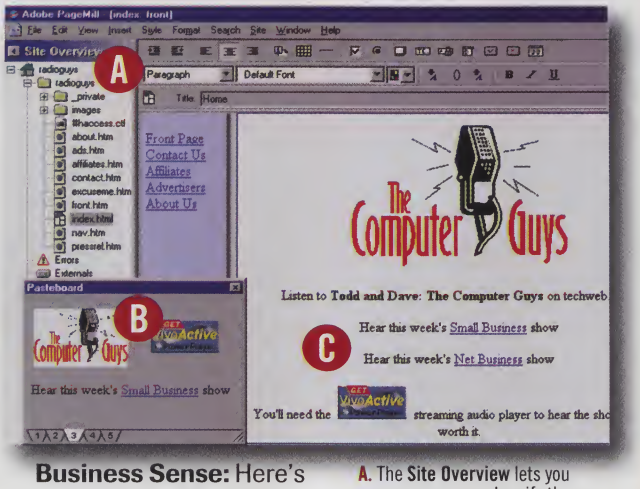
PageMill also provides site management tools, but unlike in FrontPage, they are all integrated into a single interface. Most notable is a Site Overview tab in the main window, which lets you manage links and folders, check external links, and edit pages within the site. To help get your site off the ground, PageMill includes sample Perl scripts and Java applets. Adobe provides a gallery of styles and templates to choose from—use your browser to check out the selection, and drag the desired elements directly into your PageMill project. Unfortunately, Adobe doesn't have a template tool that lets you create a standardized site with the same style elements on every page.

Adobe's deceptively compact program is a whiz at most tasks, but PageMill doesn't supply all the answers. The most significant shortcoming is PageMill's lack of hand-holding, quick-start Wizards (à la FrontPage). Also, you won't find support for cascading style sheets or Dynamic HTML, so this is not a tool for creating bleeding-edge sites. But on the upside, PageMill won't strip out or modify unknown code, either. That means you can add special HTML tags by hand and not worry about what the editor will do to your additions. For adjusting Web images, PageMill includes Photoshop LE, which far surpasses FrontPage's graphics tools.

No Sweat PageMill is a great choice for small-business users who don't have the time to wade through large suites like FrontPage or wrestle with raw HTML tags in tools like SoftQuad's HotMetal Pro 4.0. Nor does PageMill make it difficult for users by including features that work only with certain browsers, like proprietary Netscape tags or Dynamic HTML. And unlike FrontPage, it doesn't require a personal Web server or mysterious server-side extensions—it includes an ordinary FTP client, for instance, to post completed sites on the Internet.

Another source of competition is NetObject's $295 Fusion 3.0. While Fusion shares some of the features found in PageMill, it costs nearly $200 more and is better suited for professional site builders. Even casual Web users can quickly pick up PageMill and FrontPage.

If there's one thing missing as of this review, it's the quick, get-me-started creation wizards that FrontPage offers. Even so, PageMill 3.0 is a joy to use. DAVE JOHNSON

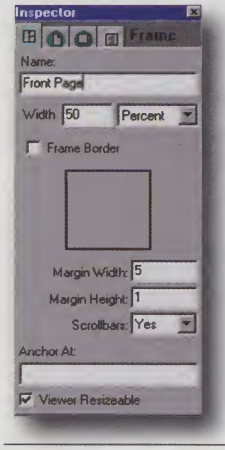


Business Sense: Here's a do-it-yourself tool for quick and painless Web site creation: For just $99, Adobe PageMill 3.0 boasts a smart interface and lots of extras, including Photoshop LE.

A. The **Site Overview** lets you move, rename, and verify the integrity of links throughout your site. Change a file in the Overview and PageMill updates it.

B. Store commonly used objects like graphics and links on the multitabbed **Pasteboard.**

C. Create a link by selecting text or graphics and typing a URL in the Link To toolbar.



Check Up: An Adobe mainstay, the Inspector lets you edit and fine-tune pages; its appearance and tools change automatically depending on the element you select.

FILEBOX

Adobe PageMill 3.0

★★★★

Verdict: Easy, affordable way to create a Web site—but where are the wizards?

Pros: Shallow learning curve; lots of extras like Photoshop LE.

Cons: Doesn't have the depth of features found in market leaders like Microsoft's FrontPage 98.

Competition: FrontPage 98 offers more features, IE-specific tools, and Dynamic HTML. But PageMill has most of the tools most people need—and it's easier to use. It's also less demanding of your PC and the Web server.

$99 est. street price
Adobe Systems
(800) 411-8657, (408) 536-6000
Enter 718 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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FlowCharter isn't just another diagramming tool. You can diagram any process across any number of pages, with intelligent lines that automatically re-route, and shapes that quickly drop intoplace.

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Infolink 399 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

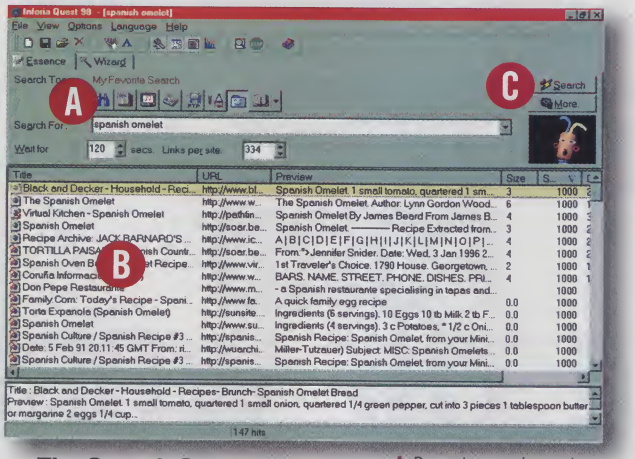
Canada call 800-360-8464. For license pricing on Micrografx FlowCharter, please contact Micrografx directly or call your preferred corporate reseller. ©1998 Micrografx Inc. All rights reserved. All trademarks are owned by their respective companies.

Picture The Possibilities

Turbocharge Your Net Searches

You don't need to dig through 10,000 matches to your Web query. You need the latest dirt on your competition—fast. Which is why you need a powerful personal search agent like Inforia Quest 98 or Zurf ZurfRider 1.0. Both are smart search utilities designed to speed up and refine your online quests by querying multiple search engines simultaneously, then returning ranked, indexed, and summarized results.

While either tool will take you beyond search engines like HotBot and AltaVista, Quest 98 edges out ZurfRider with support for more search engines and a handy search wizard. Sure, ZurfRider groups results more effectively, but overall, Quest 98 is the way to go.



The Search Continues: If you still haven't found what you're looking for online, enlist the help of an intelligent personal search agent like Inforia Quest 98 (above) or Zurf ZurfRider 1.0.

A. Beyond general searches, **custom filters** let you sift through news, current discussions, and more.

B. You can easily view **ranked results.**

C. Create more **searches.**

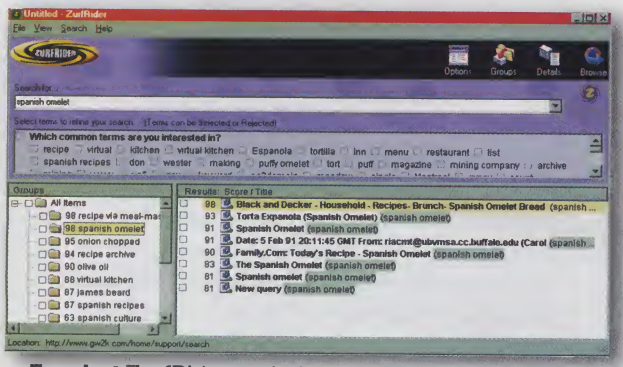
End the Search ZurfRider's strength is in making quick sense of what can seem like an endless list of query matches. It groups similar results and lets you refine your search by eliminating links that contain irrelevant words or subjects. However, ZurfRider has an ugly habit of often canceling valid sites.

Quest 98 bests ZurfRider in many ways. For starters, Quest returns up to five times the number of valid results, because Quest includes a library of more than 100 search engines (versus ZurfRider's few dozen). And for more accurate queries, Quest groups its engines under different topics: news searches, Usenet, entertainment, technology, FTP, leading search engines, and so on.

Who, What, Where For search neophytes, Quest 98's wizard leads you through the mystical world of Boolean searches—using those strange AND, OR, and NOT rules—with ease. Once you've entered your query and the number of results you want returned, just click on Go. Impatient researchers can browse the results before the search is completed or open another query window to set multiple searches in motion. Also, details for each link in Quest appear in a separate window. Retrieving this information in ZurfRider is a two-step process—first right-click on the link, then select Properties.

At first look, ZurfRider seems to be the more attractive choice, with its easy-to-read grouping and elimination features. But the $10 you save with Zurf to get grouped results isn't worth it. Quest 98 is a better choice, because it hits more valid sites to bring you exactly what you're looking for.

DAVID SPARK



Eureka! ZurfRider 1.0 helps you find exactly what you're looking for and includes grouped results, which aren't found in Quest 98.

FILEBOX

Quest 98

★★★★

Verdict: A powerful tool for making quick, accurate work of online searches.

Pros: Queries more than 100 search engines; categorizes search topics; lets you view results before search is completed; runs multiple queries simultaneously; helpful search wizard.

Cons: Doesn't group results or offer the option to narrow them.

Competition: Other metasearch tools—NewBot and NewsMonger—don't match the scope of Quest 98. Search.com doesn't have Quest's results-management features. And while ZurfRider costs $10 less and includes grouped results not found in Quest, it hits fewer sites and doesn't let you view results prior to completion.

$30 direct price
Inforia
(626) 796-7812
Enter 719 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

ZurfRider 1.0

★★★

Verdict: Eliminates dead-end search results but supports a limited number of engines.

Pros: Groups results; easily eliminates dud hits.

Cons: Fewer search engines; deletes some valid results in elimination process; no search wizard; can't view results during query.

Competition: Quest 98 is more expensive and lacks ZurfRider's helpful results-management features, but it's a more powerful program.

$20 est. street price
Zurf
(415) 893-0660
Enter 720 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

With 8MB of AGP graphics Ellen will open more than just Windows®

Introducing the Matrox Productiva G100 video card. 8MB for only $99*.
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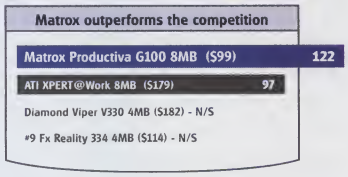

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*Estimated Street Prices accurate at time of printing. All tests conducted by Matrox Graphics Inc. using a Dell Pentium II 300Mhz with 64MB of RAM and 512K cache. Matrox Productiva AGP was tested with 8MB of memory using driver revision 3.82. ATI Xpert@Work AGP was tested with 8MB of memory using driver revision 4.10.01.2278. Diamond Viper V330 and Number Nine 9Fx Reality 334 were tested with 4MB of memory and using driver revision 4.10.01.0022 and 4.10.1102 respectively. WinBench 98 Business tests conducted at 1280x1024@24bit at 75Hz refresh using small fonts under Windows 95 OSR2.

matrox

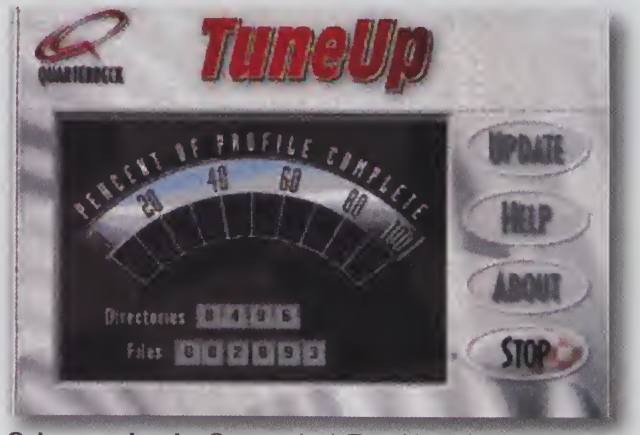
Infolink 153 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

The Hum of a Finely Tuned PC

Computer maintenance is a full-time job. An inexpensive and easy alternative is Quarterdeck's TuneUp. The program combs the Internet for updates that keep your system purring.

TuneUp first profiles your PC to see what's under the hood, then checks in with Quarterdeck's frequently updated Web database of patches and drivers. The fixes that are appropriate to your setup are listed; simply choose the ones you want to download.

In our test system, TuneUp secured an updated video card driver, the latest Iomega Zip drive tools, a Microsoft Office 97 patch, and a raft of software enhancements. But it didn't find updates for Adobe PageMaker 6.5 or CorelDraw 7—patches exist for both. Worse, TuneUp wanted to substitute an STB PowerGraph driver for our STB Velocity 3D video card.



Cybermechanic: Quarterdeck TuneUp tightens your system's nuts and bolts by finding the latest hardware and software updates.

The other half of the TuneUp package is TuneUp AV, a capable and easy-to-use virus-cleansing utility that includes a year of free updates.

TuneUp is very easy to use and sports a simple push-button interface. Even so, it could've done a better job securing updates. **RICK BROIDA**

FILEBOX

Quarterdeck TuneUp

★★★

Verdict: The first step to a maintenance-free system.

Pros: Brain-dead easy to use; describes available updates so you can decide if you need them; free virus-checker.

Cons: Doesn't find updates for every installed app; lacks an undo option and an install log.

$40 est. street price
Quarterdeck Corp.
(800) 683-6696, (573) 443-3282
Enter 725 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

MarketScape WebCD Pro

Share Your Web Site on CD

The Web is a great medium for commerce and promotion, but you can't leave your site behind in a manila envelope. On the other hand, you can distribute CD-ROMs in a thousand different ways. Burning your Web site onto a silver disc isn't exactly ideal, however, because the site invariably changes just minutes after the CD-ROM rolls off the press. That's where MarketScape's WebCD Pro comes in. It creates hybrid Web/CD-ROMs that never go out of date because they intelligently check for new content on the Internet as they're viewed.

Creating a WebCD is easy. Using a Microsoft Windows Explorer–like interface, you direct the program to a Web site, where it downloads the data necessary to make your site run from a CD. Then the fun begins: You can drag non-Web content (such as PowerPoint presentations, Macromedia movies, and executable files) into the project, and create bookmarks for a custom browsing experience.

New Spin: WebCD Pro copies your Web site on a CD-ROM that intelligently checks for new Net data.

Other products, including multimedia authoring packages, create hybrid Web CDs, but they aren't as flexible as WebCD Pro—the program senses whether the user is online and ignores the Web if he or she is not. However, if the user is online, WebCD Pro searches for new data on the Internet and uses the fastest source possible.

When it comes to distributing a Web site on CD, WebCD Pro is the slickest solution in town. **DAVE JOHNSON**

FILEBOX

WebCD Pro

★★★★

Verdict: An excellent way to share your Web site on CD-ROM.

Pros: Easy to cut and paste low-bandwidth Web data onto CD-ROM.

Cons: Hybrid engine works only with Windows; expensive.

$4,795 est. street price
MarketScape
(888) 469-3223, (719) 593-9890
Enter 726 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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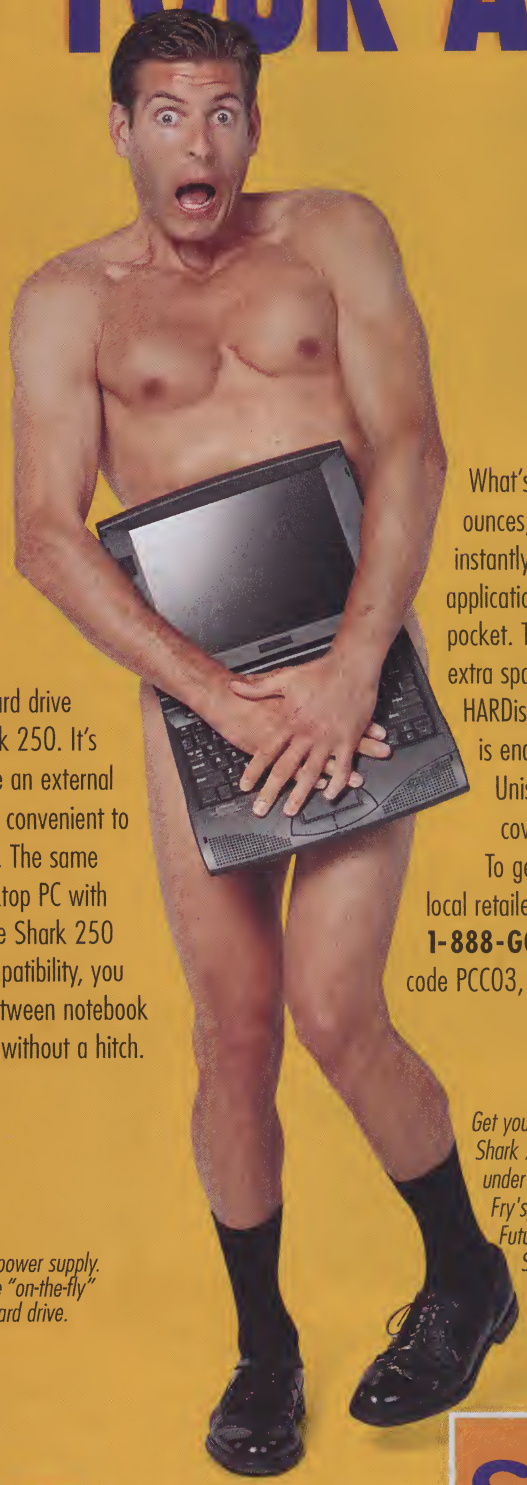

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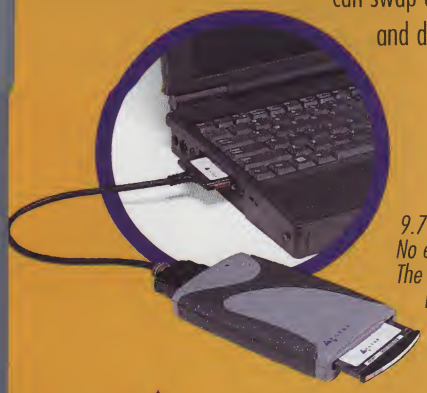

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Infolink 131 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New! INTERNET: Security Software Systems Cyber Sentinel

Block the Bad Part of the Net

The Internet is a great source of information, but there's a lot of riffraff out there too. How do you give your kids access to quality information while keeping them away from sites you'd rather they didn't see? Instead of the easily breakable database of forbidden URLs, Security Software Systems' Cyber Sentinel uses a contextual text-recognition system to keep your kids away from the risqué and raunchy.

Keep It Clean: Cyber Sentinel blocks questionable Web sites, chat rooms, and e-mail from your kids.

Cyber Sentinel goes beyond more simplistic systems that rely on blocking single words like *sex* or word phrases. Of course, Cyber Sentinel isn't foolproof: Sites that display just images and no text may still slip through the program's safety net. But as it turns out, image-heavy sites have enough indelicate text embedded in their pages to activate Cyber Sentinel with ease.

Unlike other Web site blockers, Cyber Sentinel automatically monitors other kinds of Internet content as well, and it screens text before it is displayed. That includes chat rooms, streaming video, and e-mail. While it's not 100 percent foolproof and there's little you can do to customize what it blocks, Cyber Sentinel is your best protection against inappropriate content on the Net, whether you're concerned with children, employees, or both. **GARY CORNELL**

FILEBOX

Cyber Sentinel

★★★

Verdict: The best choice for controlling kids' access to questionable Web sites.

Pros: Contextual text screening; monitors chat rooms, e-mail, and any other Internet communications content.

Cons: Main database is neither viewable nor overridable; only one customizable database.

$50 est. street price
Security Software Systems
(888) 835-7278, (630) 466-7664
Enter 727 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

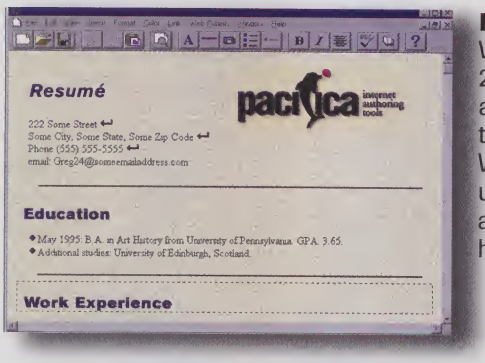
Pacifica Software Professional WebResume 2.0.4

Land Your Dream Job

SNEAK PREVIEW

The Internet is a great way to get your résumé in front of thousands of prospective employers immediately. But if your HTML skills don't do your résumé justice, you're still out of a job. Pacifica Software's $50 Professional WebResume 2.0.4 makes building and posting your Web résumé easier than picking the right shoes to wear for your job interview.

A handy résumé tips booklet helps you brush up on your résumé-writing skills. When you're ready to publish, you can choose from a variety of customizable templates. The HTML editor is easy enough for a novice, but experienced HTML jockeys will consider it the weakest part of the program.



Help Wanted: WebResume 2.0.4 provides an easy avenue to get your Web résumé up to snuff—and into hiring hands.

Once your résumé is done, you can post it on your own or take advantage of free space provided by CareerSteps. The three-month trial includes registration with three major search engines and 11 career sites including CareerMosaic and MonsterBoard. Headhunters in the Recruiters Online Network also receive a copy.

The strength of your résumé determines what job offers roll in, but WebResume does a great job of getting the word out to the people who do the hiring. **BONNY L. GEORGIA**

FILEBOX

Professional WebResume 2.0.4

★★★★

Verdict: An easy way to get your résumé online and to the right companies.

Pros: Easy to master; fast résumé delivery.

Cons: Lacks support for some HTML features.

$50 est. street price
Pacifica Software
(800) 755-9036, (650) 463-3980
Enter 728 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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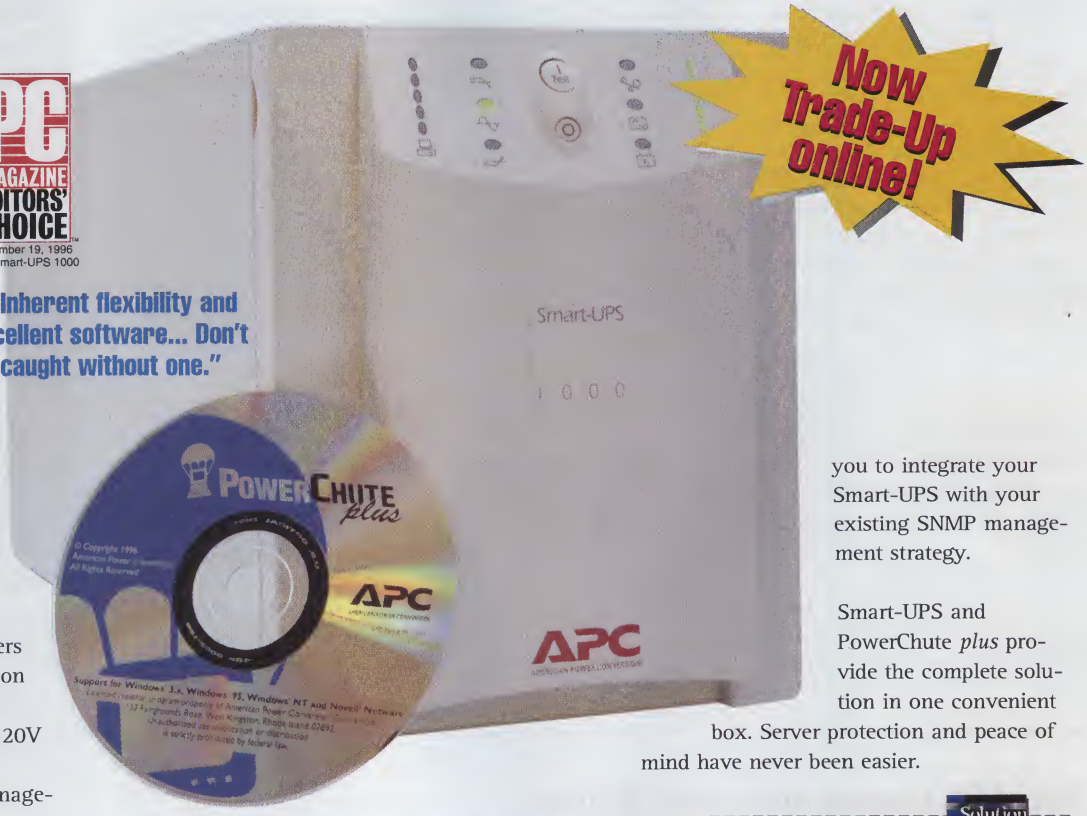
PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE
November 19, 1996
APC Smart-UPS 1000

"...Inherent flexibility and excellent software... Don't be caught without one."



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Power problems attack networks relentlessly. To protect hardware and data from system crashes, experts, network managers and computer users worldwide prefer one solution above all others combined: APC Smart-UPS. Now, all 120V Smart-UPS include FREE PowerChute *plus* power management software.

The most reliable protection you can buy

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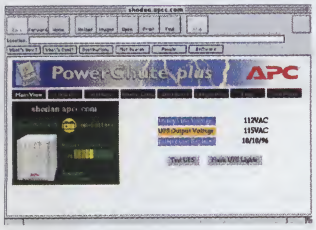

PowerChute plus *provides unattended system shutdown and UPS management for Windows NT, Netware and other servers. Manage Smart-UPS via SNMP, DMI and Web browsers (shown above). Features vary by operating system.*

Web server and SNMP ready

APC's NEW WebAgent™ allows you to monitor and manage your Smart-UPS using your Web browser. New WebAlert™ notifies users of Web server shutdown via their browser. PowerChute *plus* also includes the PowerNet™ SNMP Agent plug-in, which allows you to integrate your Smart-UPS with your existing SNMP management strategy.

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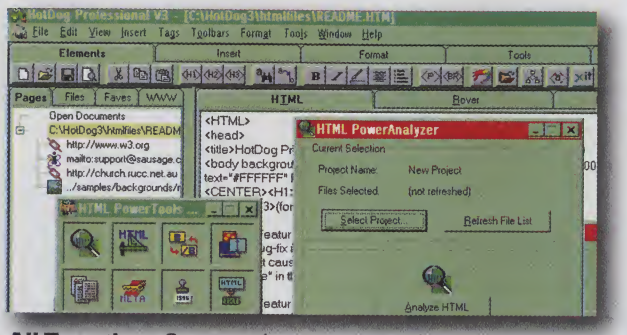
Infolink 186 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Bargain Power Toolkit

Designing a great Web site is only half the battle; you also need tools to maintain and update your site regularly. You could buy these tools piecemeal and spend a bundle—or opt for an all-in-one suite of Web products such as Macmillan Digital Publishing USA's $50 HTML Construction Kit. It combines three great Web site creation tools in one: HotDog Pro 3.0, a top-notch HTML editor; Web*Lite, an RTF-to-HTML document converter; and HTML PowerTools, a collection of eight applets for analyzing and updating your site.

The best of the bunch is HTML PowerTools; its applets make it easy to check all your code offline for bad syntax and links, fix mismatched tag pairs, and correct errors with a multifile/directory search-and-replace utility. You can also create metatags so search-engine spiders can index your site accurately, and you can scan and change all image files for appropriate width, height, and alternate text (alt) attributes.



All Together: Scattered across multiple programs, the $50 HTML Construction Kit has just about all the HTML development tools you need.

The problem with the HTML Construction Kit is that it's an optical illusion. The features are excellent, but they're spread out among multiple programs, with little integration to link all the pieces together.

Even so, if your HTML editor of choice is HotDog Pro, you can't afford to pass over this package of great Web design utilities at a bargain price. **DAVID SPARK**

FILEBOX

Macmillan HTML Construction Kit

★★★

Verdict: Complete suite of power HTML tools at a bargain-basement price.

Pros: Excellent HTML editor; analyzes HTML grammar; updates mistakes across files.

Cons: Loose integration of programs.

$50 est. street price
Macmillan Digital Publishing USA
(800) 428-5331, (303) 739-4020
Enter 729 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

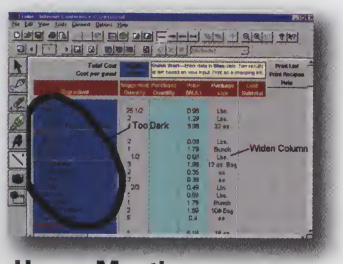
VocalTec Communications Atrium

Meet More, Travel Less

If you can recite the airline's safety video by heart, you need to travel less. VocalTec's Atrium can help you meet face to face with anyone, without having to leave your home base.

Atrium is composed of Internet Conference Professional (ICP) 2.1, VocalTec Conference Server (VCS) 1.0, and VocalTec Forum Server 1.0. The client, ICP, provides a shared whiteboard for all participants. ICP lets you talk to an individual colleague while viewing and editing the same documents over the Web.

VCS is capable of up to 150 simultaneous audio connections. To prevent a shouting match, VCS provides various methods of speaker arbitration. The most restrictive method, called moderated mode, allows a moderator to determine who is allowed to speak and when.



House Meeting: VocalTec's Atrium combines Internet audio conferencing and whiteboard sharing.

The shared whiteboard lets team members collaboratively edit OLE-based documents from popular office suites, plus a full range of drawing and annotation tools are available.

Atrium's strengths lie in the collaboration process and center on creating and editing group documents. A competing product, PlaceWare Auditorium emphasizes moderated discussions in a textual format but lacks Atrium's shared whiteboard features. But Atrium's textual conferencing features are simplistic; instead, the program concentrates on its spectacular audio conferencing features. While its price needs trimming, Atrium can help you pull together a geographically disparate team on the Web—which should help you keep airplane food out of your diet. **CHRIS KINSMAN**

FILEBOX

VocalTec Atrium

★★★

Verdict: Get the team together without getting on an airplane.

Pros: Strong audio conferencing capabilities and great document-based collaboration tools.

Cons: Support for traditional text-based chat falls short of competitive offerings; high price.

$2,400 for ten-user license, est. street price
VocalTec Communications
(800) 843-2289, (201) 768-9400
Enter 730 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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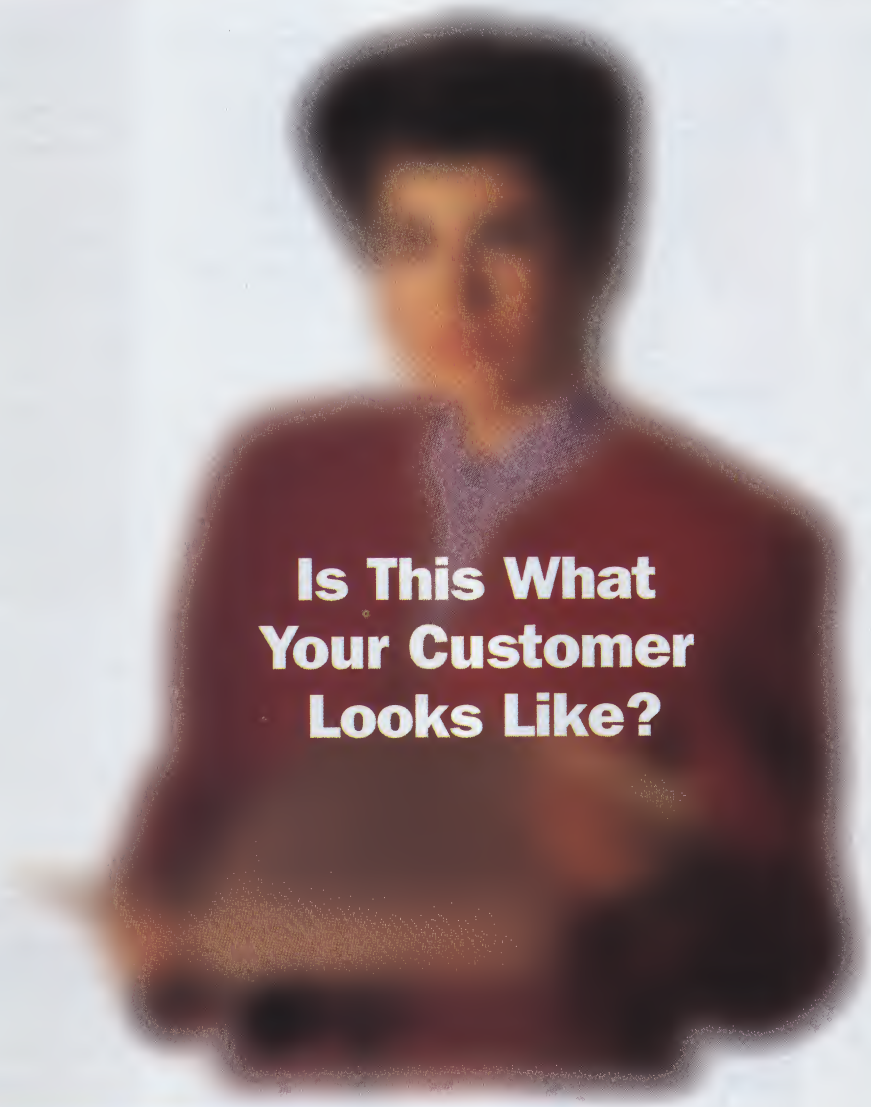

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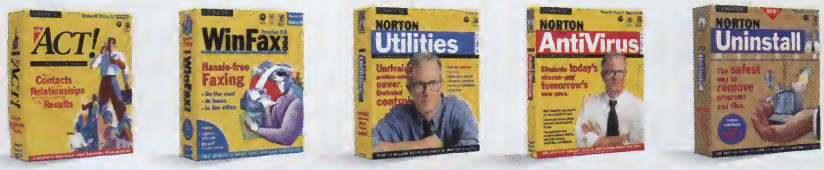

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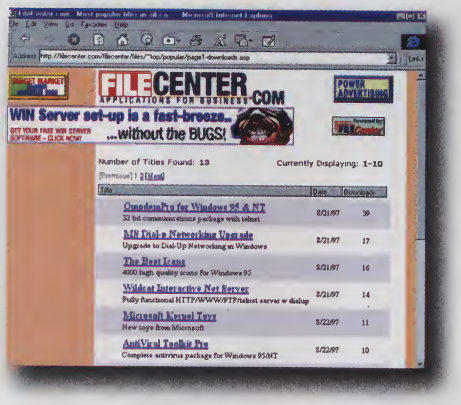
Infolink 166 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FTP Your File Cabinet

Distributing files on the Net is a risky business. FTP sites don't provide file description tools, custom Web pages take a lot of effort to create, and there are always security issues. Mustang Software's Web Essentials FileCenter fixes all of that.

FileCenter lets you create a large, attractive, and flexible Web-based file library with virtually no effort at all—as long as you're hosting your own site on either an NT 4.0 server or Windows 95 running the Personal Web Server.

Using a simple Windows Explorer–like interface, you can organize files into groups for easy browsing and include details like file descriptions, automated download counts, and author information. When you're done, FileCenter lets you publish the whole library to standard Web pages with a single button.



Checked Out: Mustang Software's $999 Web Essentials FileCenter creates elegant-looking online file libraries.

FileCenter's strength lies mainly in its simplicity. The file library is stored as an ordinary Microsoft Access database, and the Web creation tool generates complete Web pages. And you needn't abandon an existing FTP server, because FileCenter can serve as a customizable front end to an FTP site.

Whether you're creating a file library for visitors to a corporate Web site or simply making company documents accessible to employees, FileCenter is an elegant solution. At $999, however, it makes more sense for those who post lots of files online. **DAVE JOHNSON**

FILEBOX

Web Essentials FileCenter

★★★

Verdict: An efficient, attractive, but expensive way to create an online file library.

Pros: Intuitive interface; easy to update your file library on a regular basis; professional-looking Web pages.

Cons: Big price for a simple service; there's no manual aside from the online help; can't create multiple libraries; currently supports only 32-bit Windows.

$999 est. street price
Mustang Software
(800) 999-9619, (805) 873-2500
Enter 731 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Hemera Technologies NetGraphics Studio 1.0

Shrink Your Web Graphics

Surfing slow-loading Web pages is about as much fun as eating cold oatmeal. No thanks. If you're a Web designer, you want your graphics files to be as small as possible for quick loading. The best way to do this is to optimize JPEG images for the highest compression and GIFs for the smallest number of colors. NetGraphics Studio 1.0 from Hemera Technologies does both of these things, and it provides editable images to boot.

NetGraphics Studio has two components, the Optimizer and the Gallery. The Optimizer's wizard converts almost any digital image into the smallest possible JPEG or GIF file. A real-time preview lets you monitor your graphic to make sure that it doesn't lose quality. The Optimizer gives you just about every option you could want for both JPEG and GIF formats, including progressive encoding and interlacing, anti-aliasing to your Web page's background color or graphic, JPEG compression, and palette reduction.

Don't Wait: NetGraphics Studio 1.0's Optimizer crunches Web images down to a manageable size and keeps your Web site performance snappy.

NetGraphics Studio's $80 price tag is steep compared to Ulead Systems' SmartSavers 3.0, which costs only $40 and offers PNG support. However, NetGraphics Studio is an easy way to get your Web graphics scaled down to a respectable and downloadable size, and it includes some useful photo clip art. **BONNY L. GEORGIA**

FILEBOX

NetGraphics Studio 1.0

★★★

Verdict: Cut your Web graphics down to size.

Pros: Excellent graphics optimizer.

Cons: No batch file conversion; no support for PNG files.

$80 est. street price
Hemera Technologies
(819) 772-8200
Enter 732 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Trying to get your head around AGP?

POWERED BY RAGE PRO ATi GRAPHICS

ATI has long been leading the way in 3D chip and board manufacturing – delivering break-through technology to top OEMs including IBM, DELL, SONY, Gateway, ACER and NEC. So, when Intel launched AGP, who else would you expect to be leading the way with fully-implemented AGP solutions except ATI?

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Offering performance up to 4 times faster than other AGP solutions, ATI is the only graphics vendor currently supporting AGP Texturing capability recommended in Intel's AGP specification. ATI's fully-implemented AGP solution achieves higher quality, state-of-the-art 3D graphics, with even richer (hi-res) textures for greater detail, more textures for richer scenes and enhanced performance.

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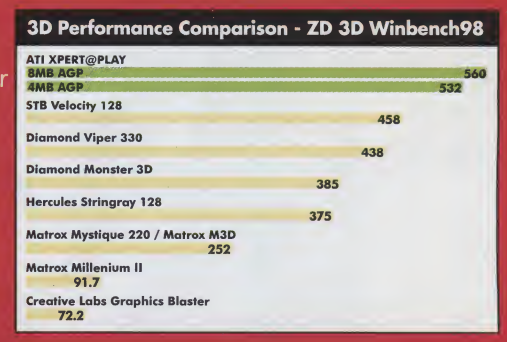
With an ATI XPERT@Work AGP 2X card or XPERT@Play AGP 2X accelerator and ATI's amazing software DVD solution you can make DVD a reality without the need for a separate and expensive DVD hardware card.



ATI can help you get your head around AGP painlessly and profitably.

For more information on ATI's AGP solutions, check out our website at www.atitech.com/pccom or call us at 905-882-2600.

Infolink 164 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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Tested on Pentium II MMX-300MHz/64MB/512cache/Windows 95-OSR2/ Test Mode 640x480x16bppp@75Hz. Tested using Driver Version: ATI XPERT@Play AGP 4.10.2312 / STB Velocity 128 4.10.01.0107 / Diamond Viper 330 4.10.01.0011/ Diamond Monster 3D PCI 4MB 4.03.00.2108 / Hercules Stingray 128 PCI 4MB 4.10.00.2108 / Matrox Mystique / Millenium / Matrox M3D 4MB 4.05.00.1000 PCI 4MB 4.03.3700 / Creative Labs Graphics Blaster PCI 4MB 4.03.00.2147

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Spin Offs

BY RON WHITE

So imitation is the sincerest form of flattery . . . but imitation isn't always the sincerest form of CD-ROM. Hey, you've got a hit movie, a TV-character franchise, a superhero trademark? More power to you! Sell the CD-ROM rights! But please do this: If you or your company is compelled to spin off something onto CD-ROM, put more than two minutes of thought into it, and make sure it uses multimedia well, not just because it can. There's too much good stuff out there—with and without best-seller tie-ins—to tolerate anything that tries to get by with name-dropping. Here are some of the sinners as well as the spin-offs that rise to the challenge of reincarnation.

BLADE RUNNER ●●●●●

The movie *Blade Runner* has its own niche in the monument to great sci-fi films. The movie is half hypothetical ideas about the basis of being and half film noir—dark, urban, and edgy. Blade Runner the CD-ROM matches the movie, plot turn for plot turn, shadow for shadow. The motion-captured animation is overdone at times, but that's the only flaw in a detective-adventure game blended with enough gunplay to mollify the action addicts. You play a blade runner whose job is to track and kill replicants, or bioengineered people. Each time you start a new game, the characters' agendas change, as does who's a replicant and who's human. (There's always the intriguing question of whether your own blade runner is a replicant who doesn't know it.) You move your character through a world that captures the high-tech nightmare of the movie while lethargic, haunting muted horns play in the background. The 3-D effects are beautiful. I'm not a fan of adventure games because they take so long to play and I have a life. And with four CDs in the set, Blade Runner promises lots of unproductive hours in front of the monitor. But its consistent dedication to the movie's existential ideas and high-tech Mickey Spillane atmosphere make the game a pleasure worth lingering over.

Blade Runner / Westwood Studios / (800) 874-4607 / $50 est. street price / *Enter 735 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

CD Noir: Blade Runner's futuristic scenery is darkly beautiful, and the game isn't bad, either.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PERRY

CHAOS ISLAND: THE LOST WORLD ●●●

Like most males with a growing-up problem, I find dinosaurs fascinating enough that I sat through both *Jurassic Park* and the sequel, my left brain noting how the movies were manipulating our basic fears, my right brain saying, "Dinosaurs! Cool!" For the latter reason I looked forward to Chaos Island, CD son of *The Lost World*, much more than I should have. This is your basic civilization game enlivened by the presence of giant lizards. As in most such games, a lot of time is spent on adventures such as building a camp and hauling supplies. There are, of course, dinosaurs, both wild ones and tame dinos the characters raise from eggs. There are also bad guys to shoot at. And apparently there are some hidden traps. After I sent the Jeff Goldblum character off exploring, he disappeared completely. Finally, I gave up the search and returned to writing my column on a different computer. A half hour later I heard Jeff call for help, but still no sign of him until the game timed out. That was the most fun I had. All in all, it's too tame except for younger children, especially compared with its ferocious cinematic predecessors.

Chaos Island: The Lost World / DreamWorks Interactive / (800) 426-9400 / $40 est. street price / *Enter 736 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

STAR WARS: SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE ●●●●

JEDI KNIGHT: DARK FORCES II ●●●

Star Wars is, of course, the best tie-in franchise since Davy Crockett caps. (Go ask someone older.) The latest LucasArts *Star Wars* CD games are Shadows of the Empire and Jedi Knight: Dark Forces II. In Shadows of the Empire, you progress through several types of combat, including aerial and ground. Jedi Knight is your basic over-the-shoulder shooter. With both games, heed this warning, Will Robinson: Make sure you're running them on the best accelerated 3-D system you can find

Ratings: ●●●●● *Clone of yourself.* ●●●● *Fraternal twin.* ●●● *Rich Little.* ●● *Driver's license photo.* ● *The anti-you.*

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Use the Force: And use all the 3-D power you can muster in Jedi Knight (above), and in its LucasArts relation, Shadows of the Empire.

and trim your little memory robbers to the minimum, or you get slow, jerky action, even on a Pentium II PC. Another lesson: Make sure the 3-D games you buy support your accelerator card. On my unsupported AGP system, even when the motion was acceptable, the terrific cut-scene animations were distorted beyond recognition. Shadows of the Empire performed better on my older PC with a Diamond Monster 3-D card, which the game supports. Jedi Knight played well on both machines, but its 3-D engine is more suited for a shooter game. It's OK for those addicted to such games, but it isn't a ground breaker. Both LucasArts CDs make some of the best use of music I've heard in a game. I don't expect any game to live up to the *Star Wars* trilogy, but these are at least as exciting as the soundtracks.

Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire / LucasArts Entertainment / (888) 532-4263 / $30 est. street price / *Enter 737 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Jedi Knight: Dark Forces II / LucasArts Entertainment / (888) 532-4263 / $50 est. street price / *Enter 738 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

TUROK DINOSAUR HUNTER ●●●●●

Here! *This* is what LucasArts should do with its 3-D shooter game! A spin-off from the Nintendo 64 game your little nephew never lets you play with, Turok Dinosaur Hunter shows that a PC's 3-D graphics match anything on a game console, and your nephew can suck an egg. Again, there are 3-D compatibility issues. Turok didn't run on my AGP system, but responded like an old lover to the Monster 3-D accelerator. The game manages to combine shooter action with our old friends, the dinosaurs. The dinos here, though, come equipped with rocket launchers and photon guns. And Turok, sort of a Native American fighting machine, has his own array of mundane and imaginative weapons. Some of the enemies aren't animal, or even terrestrial, but they're all wonderful inventions that die with style and lots of blood. Dead enemies simply fade away, which cuts down on littering. The few deadly creatures I encountered lacked cunning artificial intelligence (as you find in id Software's Quake or Activision's Hexen), running right at me so missing them was impossible. I consider this a feature rather than a bug because I need all the help I can get. But more seasoned warriors with, say, basic eye-hand coordination may find Turok too easy. It's worth a spin when you tire of the cramped quarters of Quake and want to get outdoors.

Turok Dinosaur Hunter / Acclaim Entertainment / www.acclaim.net / $50 est. street price / *Enter 739 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

DIE HARD TRILOGY ●●●●

OK, so we all have secrets. I'm a closet Bruce Willis fan. I know that he's a right-wing, loudmouthed jerk, and I won't even get started on Demi Moore. But what can I say? I have a soft spot for wise-cracking out-of-shape men with thinning hair, especially when presented with lots of gunfire, explosions, and innocent victims. The CD trilogy spin-off pays generous homage to all three *Die Hard* movies with a 3-D–accelerated game for each. The first is a Tomb Raider–style game that oddly lets you look through walls. The second's a simplistic shooting gallery with explosions and burning people running around. The third's a car race to find ticking bombs. Splattering innocent bystanders across the windshield is unavoidable—and easily cleaned off with a swipe of the wipers. Throw in some Willis soundalike jokes and a distinctively Willisian *Ohhhh* each time he's shot, and a testosterone-deficient male won't find better mindless violence.

Die Hard Trilogy / Fox Interactive / (310) 369-7000 / $25 est. street price / *Enter 740at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

MEN IN BLACK ●●

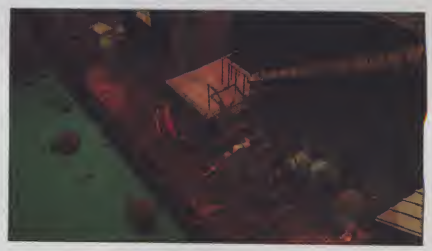
Imagine if the movie *Men in Black* had been shot from a camera positioned directly over the actors. In Men in Black (MIB) the game, you control your character from above. Don't bother with hand-to-hand combat. Your only chance is to shoot 'em, no questions asked. That's because you use the same arrow keys with different shifts for moving, jumping, fighting, or using weapons. Only a virtuoso pianist can have that much digital control. The animated characters were jerky, as though they were zombies from *Night of the Living Dead*. OK, it's not all action. There are also deadly puzzles, but one guess is as good as any amount of brainpower. Surviving is just a matter of elimination. The movie *Men in Black* was an intelligent, bubbly mixture of action and comedy. The CD-ROM version is the anti-*MIB*. Someone should step on it.

Men in Black: The Game / SouthPeak Interactive / (800) 774-6183 / $30 est. street price / *Enter 741 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

THE CITY OF LOST CHILDREN ●●●●

Whoa! Another CD from last year's waning DOS releases. This one, however, has the good taste to spin off from an obscure French film. The movie of the same name is visually striking but a bigger bore than Olympic curling. The game follows in the same tradition. You maneuver a young orphan child through the alleyways and polluted canals of an old, dark, and depressing city. She is looking for a laboratory where a scientist intent on stealing children's dreams has kidnapped all the other children in the city. The 3-D movement is nicely done. And the automatically changing camera angles and the atmosphere keep the game interesting. But be prepared for a lot of unnecessary walking to no place in particular in the nonlinear plot. Adventure devotees with a splash of European melancholy about them will find the game thoroughly haunting as they take the time to figure out the mysteries within it. I think I'll keep shooting up bad guys with Bruce.

The City of Lost Children / Psygnosis / (800) 438-7794 / $40 est. street price / *Enter 742 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*



In Your Dreams: In the City of Lost Children, walk haunting streets in search of . . . something.

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*Source: National Computer Security Association 1997 Computer Virus Prevalence Study.

**Source: Secure Computing, January 1997.

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Top 10 REASONS TO UPGRADE TO

If someone secretly replaces the coffee at your favorite five-star restaurant with freeze-dried crystals from a jar, we bet you'll notice. In fact, any waiter who tries that stunt with us should consider himself lucky if we don't pour the swill in his lap.

But what would you do if we secretly switched operating systems on your computer? If we upgraded your Windows 95 PC to Windows 98, how long would it take before you noticed? As long as you didn't watch too closely when the splash screen appeared, it could be days before the change hit home.

On the surface, Windows 98 looks just like Windows 95 plus Internet Explorer 4.0. Under the covers, though, are some noteworthy improvements. Windows 98 includes hundreds of new device drivers, a wide-ranging set of diagnostic tools, and general improvements in usability fit and finish.

Should you rush out and upgrade to Windows 98 the first day it's available? It's a worthwhile upgrade to Windows 95, but it's hardly essential. With a new PC, of course, you should always insist on the most current Windows version. If you're looking for reasons to upgrade an older PC, keep reading. We've got the lowdown on the top 10 reasons you should switch—and a few reasons you shouldn't.

1 SMART SETUP, EASY UPDATES

2 BETTER CRASH PROTECTION

3 FREE DISK SPACE

4 FASTER PERFORMANCE

5 HASSLE-FREE STARTUP

Microsoft's new operating system is around the corner—should you make the switch? Find out in this exclusive inside report.

By Ed Bott

Windows 98

(AND A FEW REASONS YOU SHOULDN'T)

MORE PORTABLE POWER

MORE DESKTOP SPACE

PHONE SAVINGS

WEB TV ON YOUR PC

PLUG AND PLAY THAT WORKS

1 Smart Setup, Easy Upgrades

Purists yawn when they look at Windows 98, because its base architecture includes the exact same mix of 16-bit and 32-bit components Microsoft delivered back in August 1995. If you're looking for something new and dramatic under the hood, Windows 98 will be a disappointment.

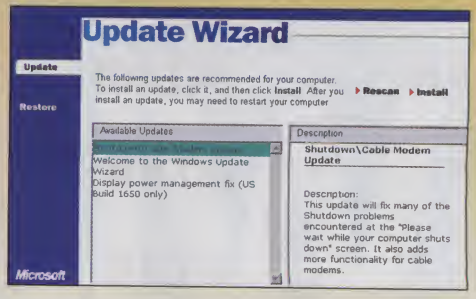
On the other hand, if you want to save several hours every time you install Windows, keep reading. The retail release of Windows 98 will roll up three years' worth of patches, bug fixes, updated drivers (more than 1,200 new drivers in the beta we looked at), and enhanced features, all on one CD. Toss in a smarter and radically streamlined setup process and you'll be able to upgrade any Windows 95 system in about an hour, without hassles. Oh, and it updates itself too.

For comparison's sake, we tried installing the retail version of Windows 95 on a two-year-old PC; it took a full weekend. After we got Windows up and running, we needed to install Internet Explorer 4.01 to get the benefit of Windows interface enhancements and the latest updates to core system files. We were stuck at 640 by 480 resolution, with frequent SCSI errors and no network support, until we used the newly installed Web browser to grab up-to-date drivers from the Matrox, Adaptec, and 3Com Web sites. Finally, we had to pull down 15 essential Windows 95 patches from www.microsoft.com, including the latest Dial-Up Networking enhancements and some security fixes.

Even if we had to install Windows only once (yeah, right), we'd prefer Windows 98.

Insider Tip Current Events

Run the Update Wizard weekly—it checks a list of patches and updates on Microsoft's Web site, then offers to download the new components you need.



2 Better Crash Protection

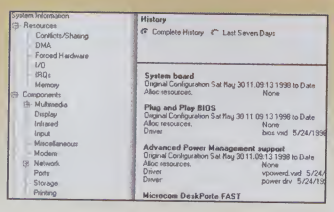
Are Windows crashes a thing of the past? Hardly. But as Windows matures, it becomes less susceptible to crashes, and the tools for diagnosing problems get more sophisticated. The most noteworthy Windows 98 improvement in the stability category is the completely rewritten System Information utility. By gathering information from the Registry, from startup files, and from running applications, it presents an exhaustive picture of the current system configuration. This information can help you spot resource conflicts, identify devices, and see a full list of running programs and tasks—even hidden ones.

Of course, Microsoft developed all these tools to cut down the time it takes to resolve support calls. But you can use the same tools to answer important questions about a system—from basic facts like the current BIOS version to a complete history of all Plug and Play events. The System Information utility is also the launching point for Windows 98's extensive collection of support tools, including the System File Checker utility, the Registry Checker, and a new Version Conflict Manager.

It's hard to imagine a third party writing a more comprehensive set of tools than the ones in Windows 98. If you crave details about how your system works, this feature alone is worth the price of admission.

Insider Tip System Answers

This completely updated System Information utility uses ActiveX controls to gather useful information about your setup; you'll find everything you need here to keep crashes at bay.



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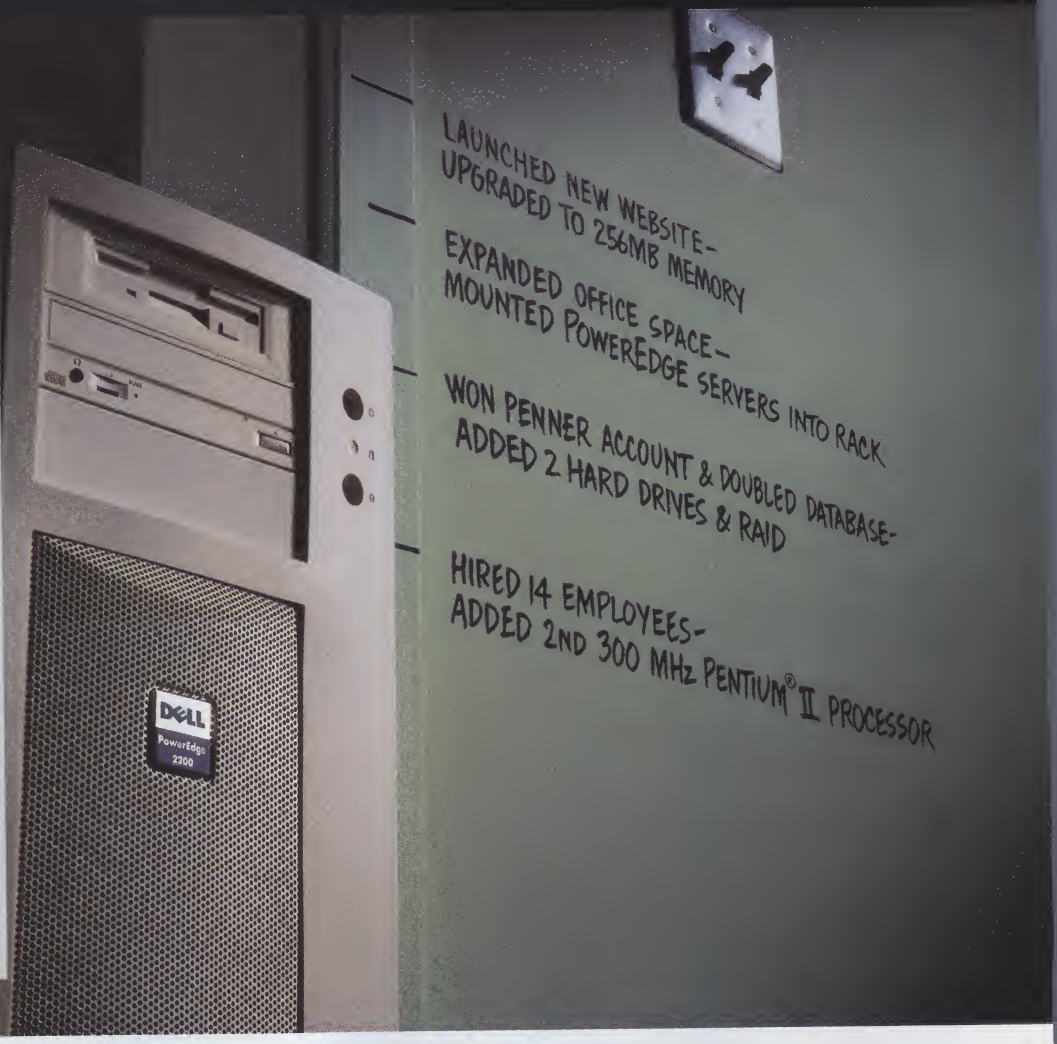

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3 Reclaim Your Hard Drive

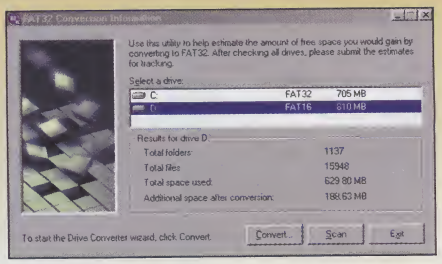
At a nickel per megabyte, the disk space you'll recover by converting a typical 2GB drive to FAT32 format will pay for a major chunk of the Windows 98 upgrade cost. Even if you install every Win98 option, you still may end up with more available storage space than you started with.

Although FAT32 debuted in the OSR2 release of Windows 95, Windows 98 is the first Microsoft operating system that officially includes a tool for converting existing drives to the new disk format. (OSR2 users have to reformat the drive or use a third-party program like Partition Magic to change formats.) And the savings can be substantial if your drives are larger than 1,024MB.

On FAT16 partitions created with the original retail release of Windows 95, the minimum storage unit is a 32K disk cluster—even a 1-byte file occupies a full cluster, wasting a frightful amount of space. By contrast, FAT32 partitions use clusters only 4K in size. As with EPA mileage estimates, the amount of storage space you'll reclaim varies, but we typically gained between 20 and 30 percent when we converted a well-used hard drive to FAT32.

Insider Tip Space Savings

Run Microsoft's FAT32 Conversion Information utility to find out how much disk space you'll recover if you convert a drive to FAT32 format.



It isn't a difficult process, either. Despite warnings that the conversion process might take hours, we found that converting to FAT32 was at most a five-minute job. Want to see how much extra disk space you'll have when you upgrade? Get your hands on Microsoft's FAT32 Conversion Information utility—you'll find it on preview editions of Windows 98.

4 Your PC Will Run (Slightly) Faster

Will your system suddenly kick into overdrive when you upgrade to Windows 98? Not exactly. In some places, like Control Panel's Add/Remove Programs applet, Windows 98 interface changes actually force you to wait longer. Overall, though, upgrading to the new OS will probably make your PC feel a bit zippier.

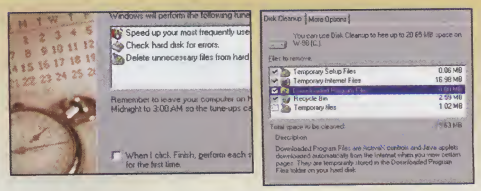
Although the Windows architecture hasn't changed, most of Win98's core components have been fine-tuned for performance. The swap file manages itself more intelligently. A built-in Registry Checker compacts the system Registry when needed. The memory management and cache modules are tuned to work optimally with 4K clusters, making disk access from FAT32 partitions faster than the same operation on FAT16 drives. There are major networking improvements too, especially in Winsock support and the TCP/IP stack.

Of course, if you really want to see improvements in perceived performance, you'll need a new system that fully supports the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) and OnNow—both of these standards eliminate the need to shut down and restart, which is where you'll find yourself waiting most.

Finally, the new OS includes utilities that let you keep the system from running into common performance bottlenecks. Most obvious is the Maintenance Wizard, which automatically schedules defragging operations and can clean up disk clutter.

Insider Tip Custom Cleanup

Use the Maintenance Wizard, but don't settle for its default settings—the Disk Cleanup Wizard can do more, if you let it.



5 Hassle-Free Startup

Really big support headaches—the "take two aspirin and pay someone to clean up this mess" variety—usually happen at startup. You add a new piece of hardware, and Windows refuses to boot.

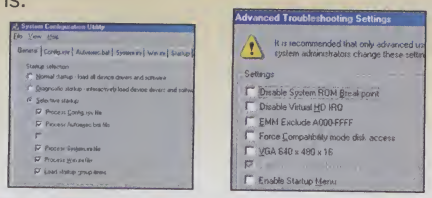
Windows 98 is far more helpful than Windows 95 when you have startup problems. A corrupt hardware driver can still keep your system from booting—but only once. On subsequent reboots, the Automatic Skip Driver agent kicks in, intercepting the driver and letting you continue to boot without loading the bad code. Once you're up and running, you can disable or replace the driver. By contrast, Windows 95 forces you to power down, uninstall the offending device, and reboot into safe mode to remove the driver.

Windows 98's Setup program also creates an emergency boot disk that's more effective than Advil for curing startup headaches. This startup disk automatically adds real-mode drivers that let you access most IDE and SCSI CD-ROM drives from a DOS prompt. The disk also packs several megabytes' worth of compressed disk utilities, unstuffing them into a RAM disk every time you boot from the floppy disk.

There are more startup goodies in Windows 98, including a System Configuration Utility that lets you set troubleshooting options without having to mess with the command line. There's also a Registry Backup/Restore utility that really works.

Insider Tip Foolproof Starts

Run the System Configuration Utility (Msconfig.exe) to troubleshoot device drivers, memory, and other tricky startup options.



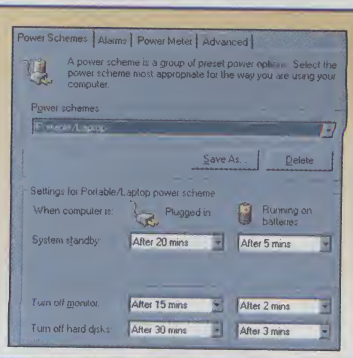
6 Runs Better on a Notebook

Power management was rudimentary in the original release of Windows 95, although it was vastly improved over the proprietary solutions in Windows 3.1 and DOS. If you bought a notebook with OSR2 preinstalled, you saw significant improvements. But Windows 98 gives you total control over your notebook's power consumption, and if your system is less than a year old you'll experience major benefits by upgrading. Like OSR2, Windows 98 automatically shuts down power to PC Card modems when they're not in use, plugging one of the biggest power leaks of all. The Power Meter applet displays information about multiple batteries, if your notebook supports this feature. And Windows 98 lets you create individual profiles that determine when the display and hard drive shut down or kick into low-power mode.

Upgrading to Windows 98 also improves support for PC Cards. It includes drivers for 32-bit CardBus devices (for connecting to a 100Mbps Fast Ethernet network, for example) and for 3.3-volt devices that consume less power than standard 5-volt devices.

Insider Tip Power Play

The Power Management Properties page is completely redesigned for Windows 98. Use this dialog box to create custom profiles that precisely regulate battery use for your notebook.



Will all these improvements mean you can expect significantly longer battery life in the future? Don't hold your breath. Notebook designers are packing larger screens, bigger hard disks, and hungrier processors into the next generation of notebooks. Like Alice, you'll have to run as fast as you can just to stay in the same place.

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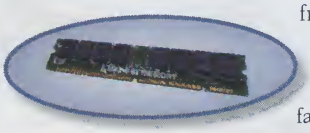

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7 Double Your Desktop Space

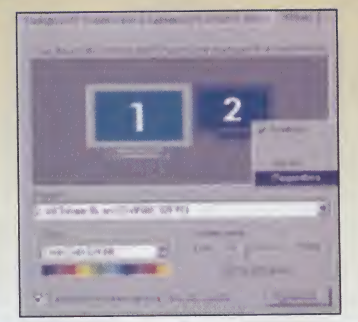
Before you pony up $1,500 or more for that spiffy new 21-inch monitor, see if you can clear a little extra room alongside your old one instead. Windows 98 includes a cool capability that gives you more viewable screen area for a fraction of the cost of a large-screen upgrade. Here's the deal.

Keep your 17-inch monitor, pop in a second PCI video adapter, plug in a second monitor (even a 15-inch monitor will do), and use both displays simultaneously. After carefully checking the hardware compatibility lists, we bought a high-quality 15-inch monitor for under $200, added a dirt-cheap S3 Virge card for about $100, and let Windows 98 install the right drivers with its Plug and Play magic. After a couple of reboots and a few stops in the Display Properties dialog box, we wound up with 20 percent more desktop area than that oversize monitor would have given us.

As long as you've got enough spare PCI slots, you can install up to eight monitors on a Windows 98 system. There are some compatibility problems with older Windows applications, but Web browsers, Microsoft Office applications, and your favorite image editor should work well in Multi Monitor mode. You can choose different resolutions and color depths for each display, easily dragging an application from one monitor to the other. And when you maximize an application, it fills the current display.

When you poke around in Windows 98, you'll find other video improvements, including all the enhancements once sold separately in Microsoft's Plus Pack, like font smoothing. But the Multi Monitor capability is the coolest of them all.

Insider Tip Multiple Monitors



Plug in a second PCI video card and monitor to extend the Windows desktop horizontally. Once you try the Multi Monitor feature, you'll be hooked.

8 Phone Smarts

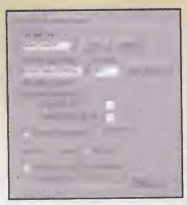
In the three years since Windows 95 first appeared, there have been dozens of new area codes in the United States, and ten-digit dialing has become an unpleasant fact of life for an increasing number of people. Look in the Windows 98 Control Panel and you'll find a Telephony icon that's packed with cool features designed to help your PC get along better with the telephone network.

For example, you can tell Windows to always use ten-digit dialing within your home area code, then specify prefixes in that area code that require you to dial 1 first. You can also list adjacent area codes that don't require a prefix when dialing.

There are dramatic improvements in Windows' ability to script a dialing sequence too. In the short term, that will make it easier for notebook users to set up custom dialing locations, and for home users to script dial-up functions to take advantage of low long-distance rates. Eventually, it should allow PC-aware phones to use "call center" software that helps keep costs down by combining a contacts database, caller ID, and sophisticated least-cost routing algorithms. Northern Telecom (www.nortel.com) has already announced the first Windows 98 phone, designed to connect to a PC through the Universal Serial Bus, and others are sure to follow. For now, though, we're just happy to have a way to bypass rip-off long-distance rates at the average business hotel.

Insider Tip Direct Dial

Control Panel's Telephony option lets you adjust the much-improved dial-up settings, including support for ten-digit dialing and prepaid phone cards.



9 Web TV on Your PC

Please don't tell Janet Reno that Microsoft is integrating Web TV into Windows 98. We've gotten used to watching CNN on our Windows 98 test system, and it would be a shame if this feature disappeared.

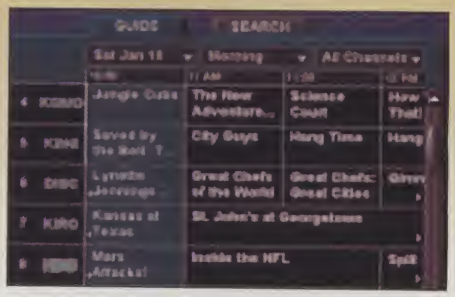
Actually, Web TV for Windows is the least impressive part of the Broadcast Architecture components that are scheduled to appear in Windows 98. It receives TV signals well enough, but only if you have a card in ATI's All-in-Wonder line—there are no drivers for other TV tuner cards. (Expect that to change for the first OEM service release of Windows 98.) And there's no shortage of bugs in the beta version of the Web TV code we looked at.

So think long-range when you think of Broadcast Architecture. The interface and underlying system components will be the same as the ones available on Web TV set-top boxes, meaning that Windows 98 users should have access to some nifty TV plus Internet features. You get listings for free, using a connection from www.starsight.com. Web TV works with the Windows Task Scheduler, letting you set reminders for shows you want to record. Presumably, consumer electronics designers will be able to take advantage of that feature in the next generation of VCRs.

Most intriguing of all is support for enhanced data delivery, which allows content providers to deliver Web pages over the unused portion (the vertical blanking interval) of a standard television signal. Of course it's a one-way connection, but it's a clever way to deliver content for stock and news tickers and Internet Explorer Active Channels.

Insider Tip TV Guide

Use Win98's Web TV to pull down free channel listings from StarSight's Web site, using spare cable bandwidth instead of a dial-up Net connection.



10 Plug and Play Works (Finally)

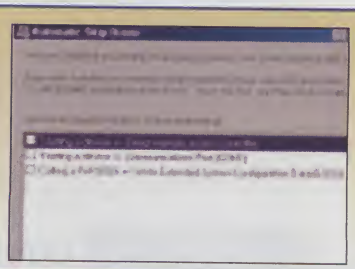
Plug and Play is still imperfect, but it works much, much better in Windows 98 than ever before. Part of the improvement comes from Microsoft's willingness to scale back the operating system's insistence on detecting and reconfiguring every device in sight: When you do an upgrade installation over Windows 95, the Setup routine assumes your existing configuration works and leaves settings done. There's also more Plug and Play hardware available today than there was in 1995, making it easier for the OS to discover information about resources. Curiously, the increasing popularity of Plug and Play BIOSs occasionally creates problems for Windows 98; the cure is to adjust the BIOS settings and tell the system you don't have a Plug and Play operating system.

But the most profound improvements will come when USB peripherals hit the market, shortly after the release of Win98. Unlike devices that attach to serial and parallel ports or use internal slots, USB devices don't require IRQs, and you can daisy-chain up to 128 USB peripherals without a problem—the connector even supplies power. We've seen USB-connected speakers, scanners, mice, keyboards, digital cameras, and telephones, and that's just the beginning.

Windows 98 supports other new hardware types, including high-speed devices that use the FireWire spec, but USB is the technology that finally eliminates the resource limitations of the original PC architecture.

Insider Tip Good Drivers

When a newly installed device causes a boot failure, Win98's Automatic Skip Driver agent detects the problem and intercepts it. Check any box to bypass the problem driver.



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Top 10 Reasons to Wait

After three years of development and more than a year of nonstop beta testing, you'd think Windows 98 would be practically perfect, right? Not exactly. We found plenty of old annoyances that linger in the new OS. And some of the new features deliver the sort of headaches that only Windows can create.

REASON 1:

Setup Schizophrenia

To update Win98 components, should you use the Web-based Update Wizard? IE4's Active Setup? Or the Control Panel's Add/Remove Programs option? Windows 98 uses the three incompatible setup routines for different tasks. For corporate sites, it's a confusing mess.

REASON 2:

Compression Catch-22

The good news: FAT32 makes efficient use of large disk partitions. The bad news: Microsoft's DriveSpace disk compression tools won't work on a FAT32 volume. Anyone upgrading from a compressed Windows 95 volume has every right to feel like they've been caught in a squeeze play.

REASON 3:

Security Holes

Windows 98 offers only the most rudimentary network protection. If you want real security, bypass Windows 98 and head straight for NT. Whatever you do, don't cache vital passwords on Windows 95 or 98: We were able to crack Win98's flimsy encryption in seconds with tools we found on the Internet.

REASON 4:

Hasta la Vista, Fax

Remember Microsoft Fax? Windows 95 included this free component along with the "universal in-box," Exchange. It was slow and monumentally buggy, and in Windows 98 it simply isn't there anymore. If you want to keep faxing, you'll have to stick with Windows 95 or pay for a copy of Outlook 98.

REASON 5:

Helpless Help

There's a spiffy new HTML-based Help engine in Windows 98. Too bad you can't find any real answers there. Read it and weep—then order a subscription to Microsoft's TechNet, which offers the answers you really need—for $299 a year.

REASON 6:

DOS Lives! (Barely)

If you mastered the DOS prompt, you'll feel right at home with Windows 98's vintage MS-DOS Prompt window. NT 4.0 includes a slick command processor, but Win98's command line looks like something you'd see on Nick at Nite. A full-featured command line can be a power user's best friend; thank goodness for utilities like JP Software's 4DOS.

REASON 7:

No Task Master

In theory, anyone who knows Visual Basic or JavaScript can write simple scripts that run directly from the Windows desktop. But you'll search Windows 98 in vain for any documentation of this feature. Want to automate basic Windows tasks? Unfortunately, the ancient MS-DOS batch language is still your only usable tool.

REASON 8:

Missing Video Drivers

You'll read lots of hype about the new Win32 Driver Model, which lets Windows NT and Win98 share the same device drivers. These drivers should be less buggy and easier to develop than previous versions. So what about the most notorious drivers of all? Sorry, video hardware isn't included in the WDM.

REASON 9:

Backup Blues

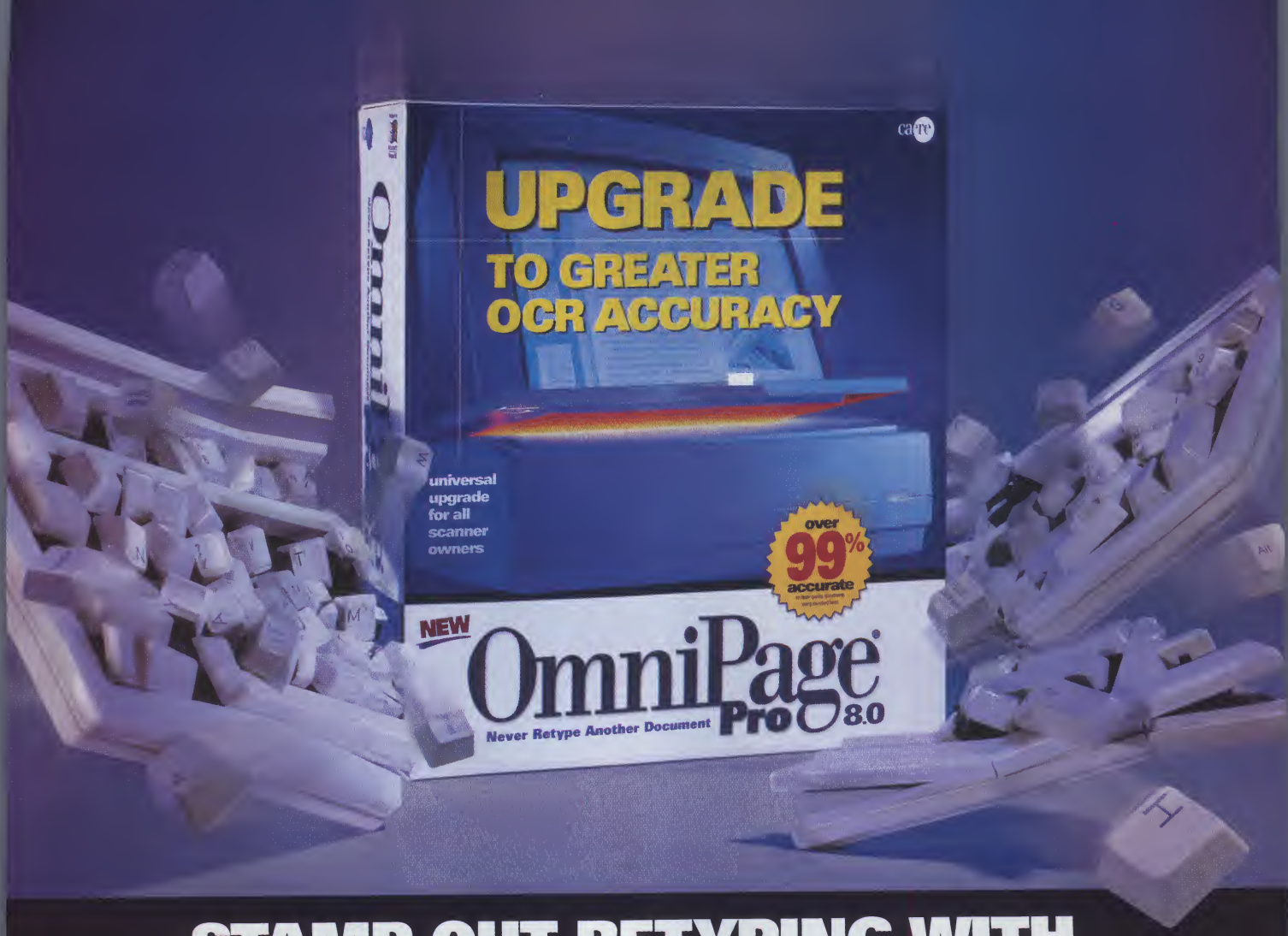
The reviewer's guide insists that the new Backup utility can rebuild the OS and restore the latest full backup with an Emergency Recover Diskette. But we found that the feature doesn't work. To restore a backup, you still have to reinstall Windows first.

REASON 10:

It's the Ultimate Orphan

Microsoft admits this is the end of the line for Windows 9*x*. The successor to Win98 will almost certainly be based on the NT kernel, with a full 32-bit architecture and little need to be compatible with ancient hardware and DOS games. So if all roads lead to NT, why detour through Windows 98?

ILLUSTRATIONS BY REGAN HONDA



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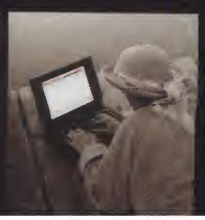

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A visual guided tour of the top products and technologies you can buy today

Wireless THAT WORKS

The great white shark—the ferocious man-eater at the top of the marine food chain—has a weakness. To keep from suffocating, it must constantly move to force oxygen-rich water through its gills. The rest of us have a similar weakness. In today's business world we must always be on the move—all the while staying connected. It's a matter of sink or swim.

If you want to be at the top of the business food chain, you need wireless technologies. You'd drown without your cell phone, but are you still using analog? Digital phones have beautifully clear call quality, and some even carry data using CDPD and packet radio technologies. How about a wireless modem? With one of these in your notebook you can log onto the Internet and send e-mail without being anywhere near a phone jack. Better still, satellite systems such as Iridium will soon let you communicate from any point on the globe.

Even if your job requires you to remain within the fishbowl of home or office, radio frequency and infrared networks give you high-speed data connections without a medusa's head of wires. And numerous wireless products, from infrared mice to radio-frequency keyboards, give you the freedom to roam around your desk or the conference room.

Our visually stunning tour of wireless technologies will help you decide which are right for you. Then we'll show you the best products for going wireless today.

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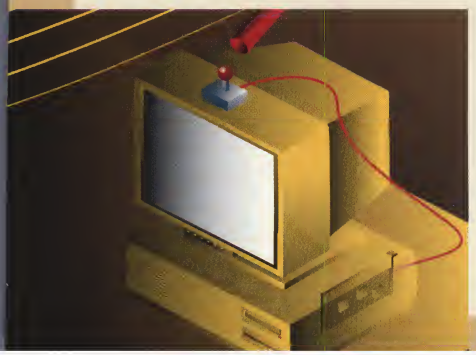

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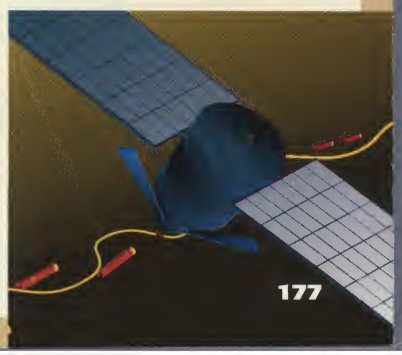

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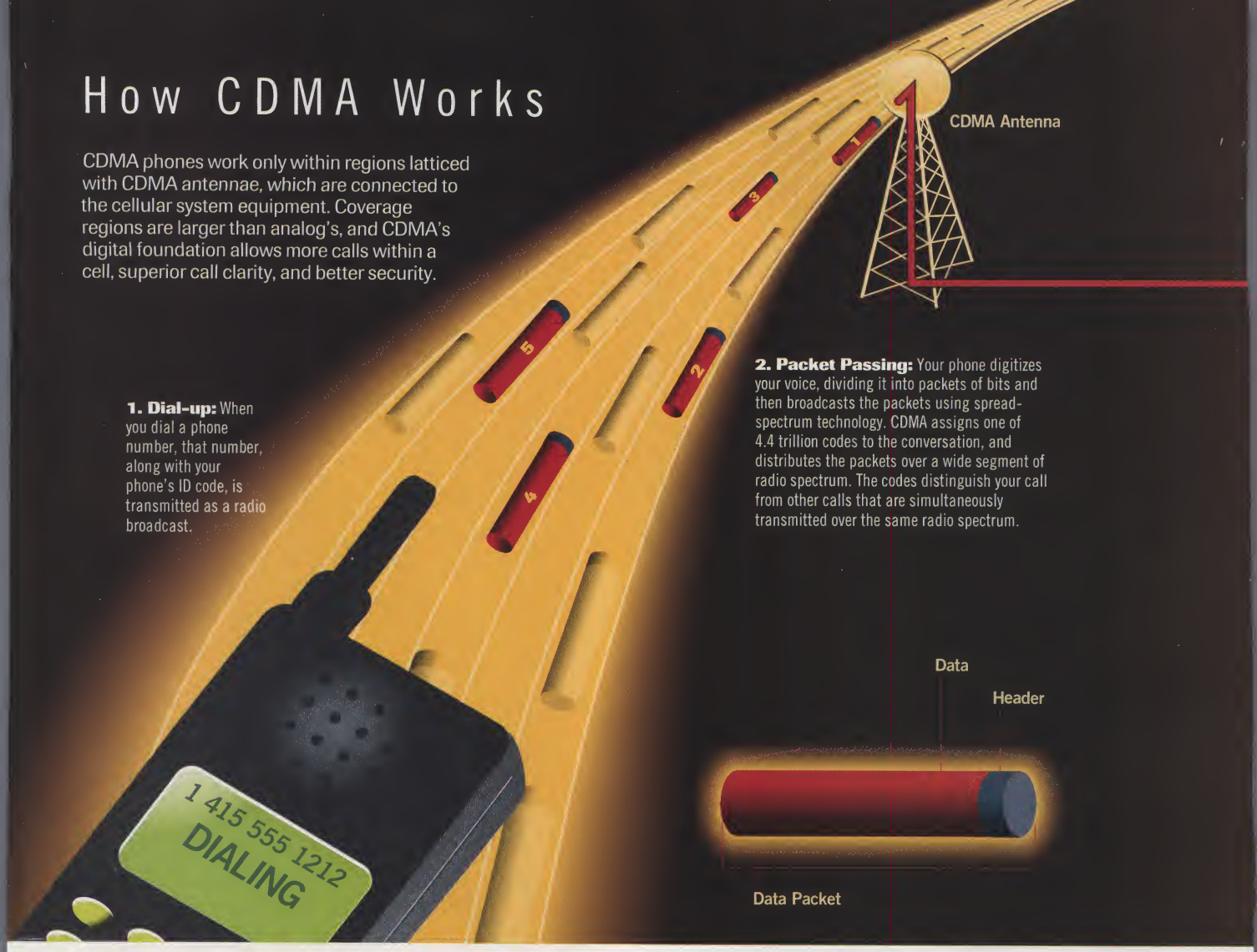
How CDMA Works

CDMA phones work only within regions latticed with CDMA antennae, which are connected to the cellular system equipment. Coverage regions are larger than analog's, and CDMA's digital foundation allows more calls within a cell, superior call clarity, and better security.



1. Dial-up: When you dial a phone number, that number, along with your phone's ID code, is transmitted as a radio broadcast.

2. Packet Passing: Your phone digitizes your voice, dividing it into packets of bits and then broadcasts the packets using spread-spectrum technology. CDMA assigns one of 4.4 trillion codes to the conversation, and distributes the packets over a wide segment of radio spectrum. The codes distinguish your call from other calls that are simultaneously transmitted over the same radio spectrum.

Cellular

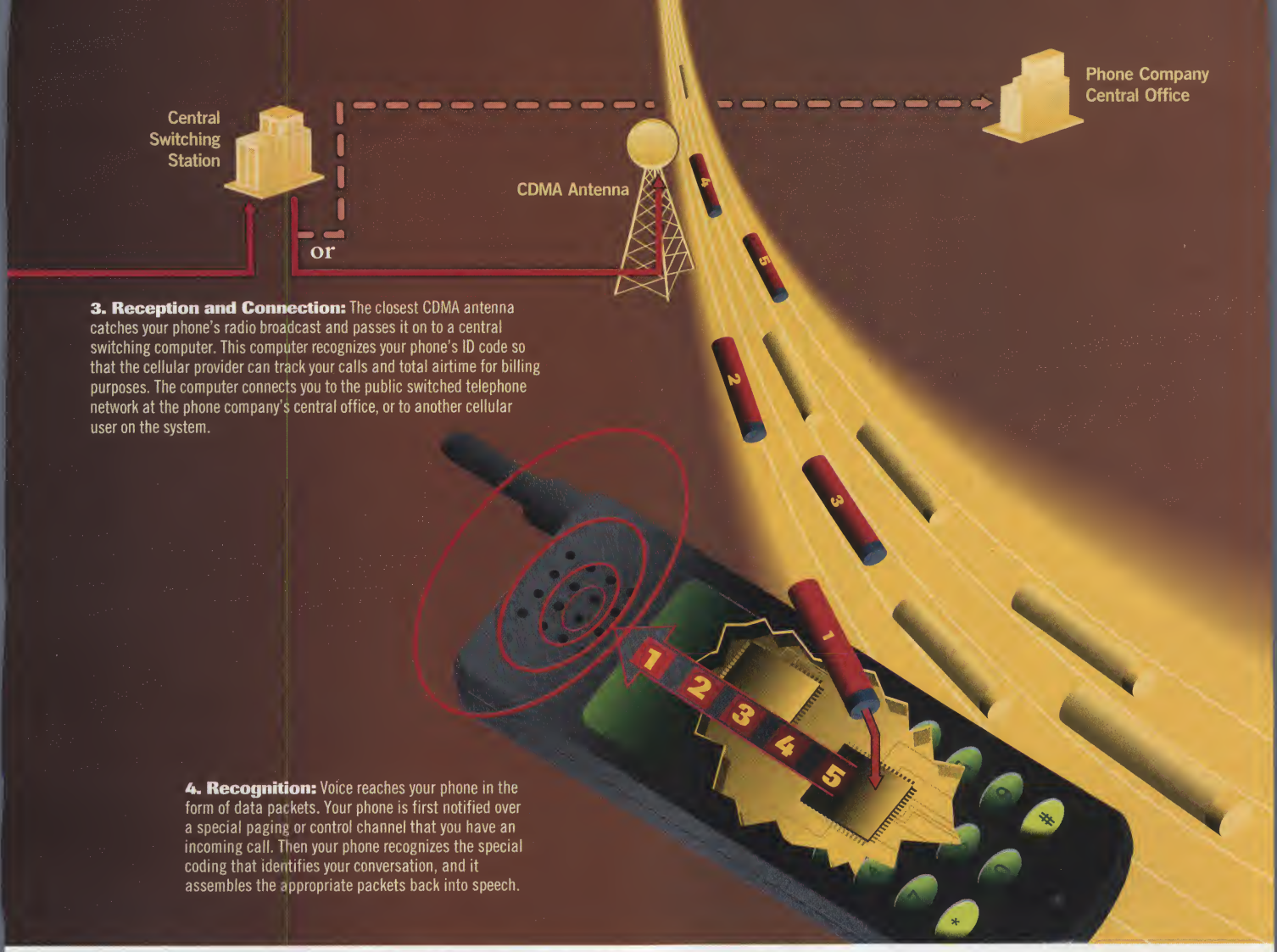
You can get a ticket for listening to the radio with headphones on while you're driving, but there isn't a cop around who'll pull you over for yakking on your cell phone. It's a ridiculous double standard, especially since cellular phones are really minuscule radios. These tiny radios work within a cellular provider's large network of antennae. In a metropolitan area, you're never far from at least one antenna's broadcast area, or cell.

It used to be that all cell phones were analog and applied a signaling technique called advanced mobile phone service. But digital cellular phones are staging a successful coup in the portable phone market thanks to superior call quality, longer battery life, and advanced features like caller ID and text messaging.

Digital phones work by converting, or digitizing, your voice signal into bits of data and then transmitting those bits as radio frequencies. Digitizing the signal safeguards it against eavesdropping and phone-number cloning. Moreover, digital cellular can squeeze more calls into the same radio frequency than analog can, so service providers can charge less per minute for airtime. More available frequency also lets more cellular service providers enter the market, thereby creating competition and driving down prices even further.

TDMA Currently there are three types of digital phone protocols: TDMA, GSM, and CDMA. Each is defined by how it packs digitized voices onto the radio frequency. Time division multiple access (TDMA) is the oldest technology, and it isn't aging gracefully. TDMA divides radio frequencies into separate channels, assigning a specific channel to your call, then broadcasts that call with precision timing. TDMA technology yields three times the call capacity of analog, but moves voice at only 8Kbps—translating into poor call quality.

GSM Global system for mobile communications (GSM) is based on the TDMA protocol. The major attraction to GSM, besides its crisp call quality, is its proven track record in Europe and Asia. It supports both voice and data transmission—voice at 13Kbps and data at 9,600bps (on the 1,800MHz frequency in Europe, and on the 1,900MHz in the U.S.). GSM uses smaller antennae cells than either of the other digital schemes, allowing for smaller phones, longer battery life, and significantly greater call capacity. Of course the smaller the cells, the more antennae are needed—a fact that pushes up GSM prices. GSM's popularity is growing in the



3. Reception and Connection: The closest CDMA antenna catches your phone's radio broadcast and passes it on to a central switching computer. This computer recognizes your phone's ID code so that the cellular provider can track your calls and total airtime for billing purposes. The computer connects you to the public switched telephone network at the phone company's central office, or to another cellular user on the system.

4. Recognition: Voice reaches your phone in the form of data packets. Your phone is first notified over a special paging or control channel that you have an incoming call. Then your phone recognizes the special coding that identifies your conversation, and it assembles the appropriate packets back into speech.

United States, often under the moniker of personal communications service or PCS. In truth, PCS refers to any digital phone that operates at 1,900MHz; there are also TDMA and CDMA versions of PCS phones. A drawback of GSM is that while it's growing, its U.S. coverage area is the smallest of the three digital protocols.

CDMA Code division multiple access (CDMA) also broadcasts your calls in packets, but unlike TDMA, all calls move within the same channel. Conversations are distinguished from one another by the special codes that are assigned to them. When you use your CDMA phone, it actually receives all the calls being transmitted within the cell that you occupy, but only those with your call's special code are assembled back into voice from their packaged state. Individual CDMA cells are the largest of the three digital protocols. CDMA manages these huge expanses of cell space because its smart phones automatically power down when close to an antenna and increase power when far away. Like GSM, CDMA transmits voice at 13Kbps and data at 9,600bps, but provides the best clarity of all the digital protocols and up to 20 times the call capacity of analog. (For more details, see "How CDMA Works," above.) CDMA operates at either 800MHz or 1,900MHz frequency bands. Qualcomm, the company that pioneered CDMA for commercial use, recently announced a dual-band phone called the QCP 2700 that lets you switch between CDMA's two frequencies. CDMA, like TDMA, can also switch back to analog in a pinch. But beware—all too often a digital connection is dropped in favor of a stronger, but lower-quality, analog connection.

CDPD Another acronym you'll encounter when shopping for a cellular phone is CDPD, or cellular digital packet data. It's an Internet protocol that overlays cellular telephone networks. CDPD lets you send data over idle frequencies on a cellular network at 19.2Kbps in the 800MHz to 900MHz range. Some cell phones work as CDPD modems that you can plug into your notebook or PDA. Designed for frequent message bursts, CDPD is used primarily for e-mail. Some services, such as Bell Atlantic's Mobile AirBridge, offer Internet service for around $50 per month.

Verdict: Unless you live in a region that doesn't offer digital coverage, go with CDMA. It offers four to five times the call capacity of GSM, the clearest call quality of the three digital protocols, enhanced privacy, and more talk time due to less power consumption.

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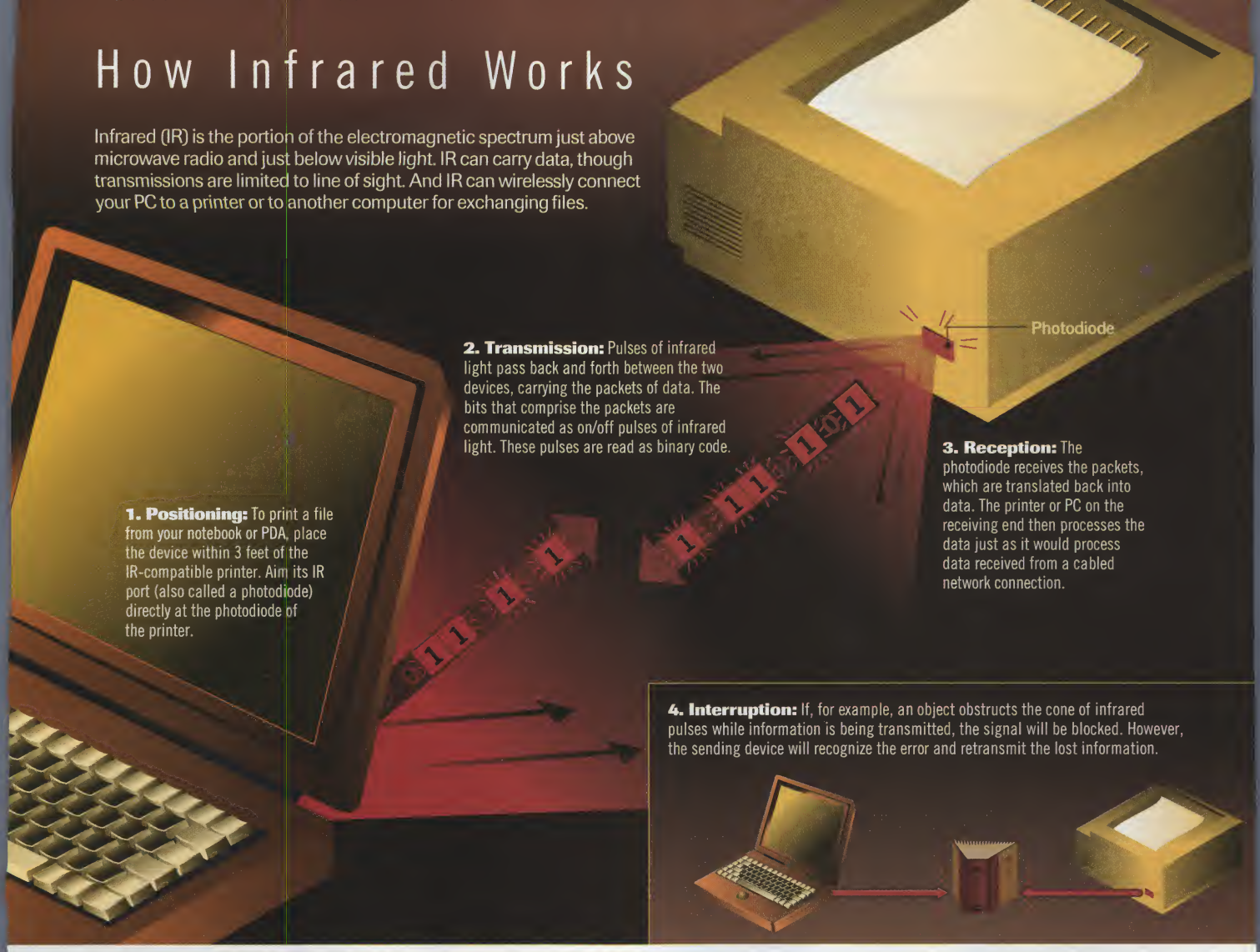
How Infrared Works

Infrared (IR) is the portion of the electromagnetic spectrum just above microwave radio and just below visible light. IR can carry data, though transmissions are limited to line of sight. And IR can wirelessly connect your PC to a printer or to another computer for exchanging files.



Infrared

A cell phone is a business staple, but it is by no means the most prevalent wireless technology. That honor goes to infrared (IR). If you've got a TV remote control, you've got an IR device. But a cone of IR light can do much more than transport you from the world of Homer Simpson to that of Jim Lehrer.

IR moves data between two devices by sending rapid on/off pulses of light that act as binary code. The Infrared Data Association (IrDA), an industry standards organization, has established the frequencies at which data travels via IR. The original standard set a maximum exchange rate of 115.2Kbps, but the newly approved version 1.1—nicknamed Fast IR—picks up the pace to 4Mbps. (For details on IR see "How Infrared Works," above.)

That's fast enough for wireless networking, and companies such as Puma Technology and JVC offer IR network kits that use one or more omnidirectional, ceiling-mounted receptor hubs. All computers on the network must have a line of sight to this receptor. Similar ceiling hubs are also used on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange so traders can use infrared PDAs instead of phones to make trades.

The most practical and most practiced application for IR is clearing up a workspace by using wireless networks, printers, keyboards, and mice. (For the best IR products and wireless devices, see "Wireless Wonders," page 190.) But the usable range of these devices is only about 3 feet, and they're restricted to line of sight.

Verdict: Infrared is an easy wireless choice because it's built into so many notebooks, PDAs, and printers. But while IR is an effective, secure way to transfer data, its short range and line-of-sight requirement doesn't work in many office situations.

Packet Radio

Need access to your e-mail? You don't have to wait until there's a phone jack nearby. Packet radio—though not as reliable as a traditional dial-up phone connection—lets you wirelessly send and receive data from almost anywhere using a notebook or PDA and a wireless modem PC Card. And unlike other e-mail services, your message never touches the public switched telephone network. Packet radio is also faster, more dependable, and less expensive than the alternative: a cellular modem connection.

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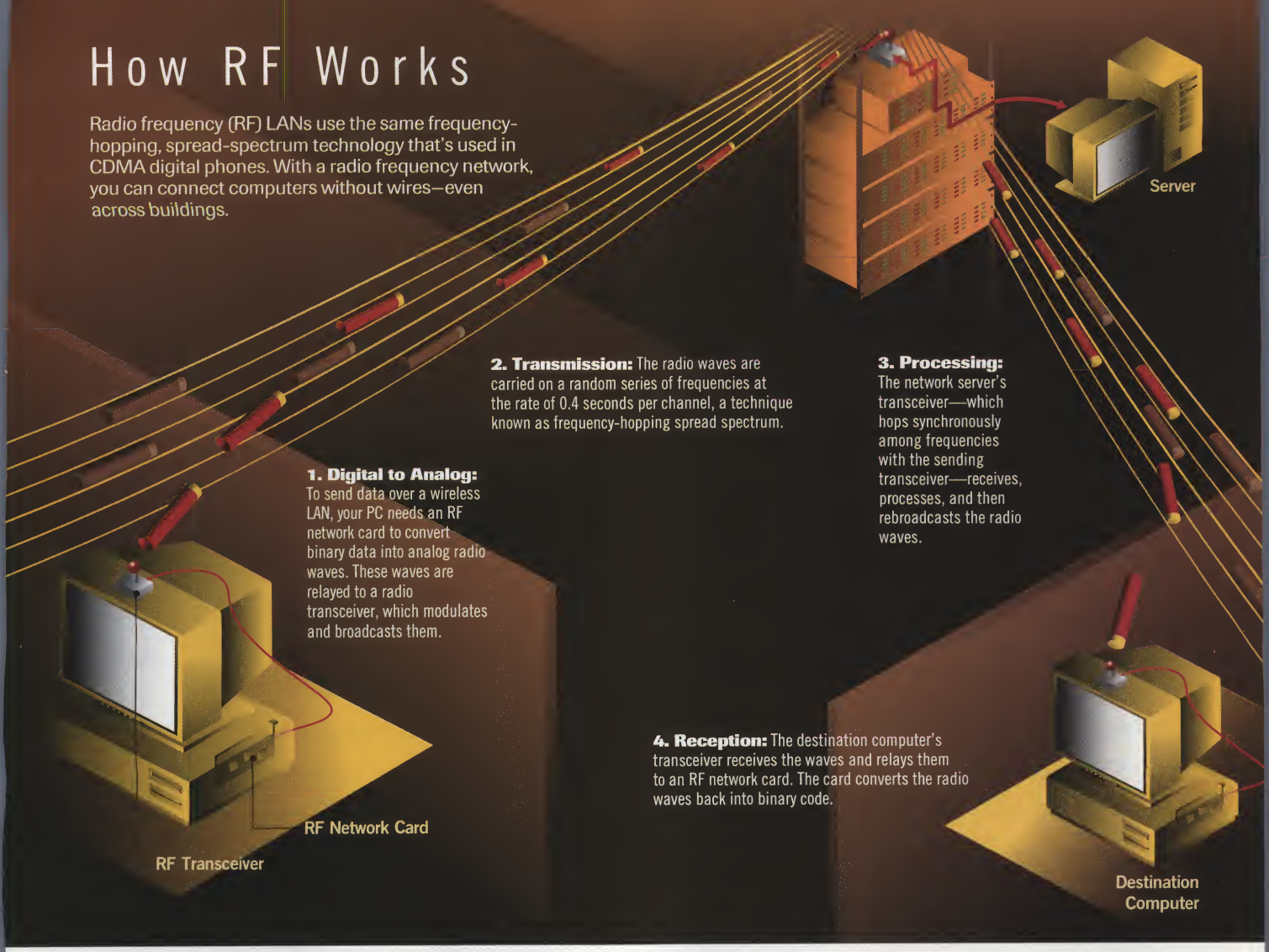

Packet radio gets its name from the way it sends data—in small bursts, or packets. There are currently two networks that support packet radio transmissions: RAM Mobile Data and ARDIS. These services give you not only instantaneous, wireless e-mail, but also connections to various news and information services. Both services send and receive data at rates ranging between 4.8Kbps and 19.2Kbps depending on the amount of data. Though RAM and ARDIS support Web browsing, loading graphical Web pages is a slow process. It's faster to have the text versions of Web pages mailed to you. Simply submit the desired URLs to the network to which you subscribe.

The radio modems that you use to access RAM Mobile Data and ARDIS are proprietary, and therefore don't work for receiving other kinds of calls. The radio modem card that operates with ARDIS—the sleek Motorola Personal Messenger 100D—is priced between $190 and $560 depending on your airtime agreement. Still, accessing the RAM Mobile Data and ARDIS networks isn't cheap. While there's no limit on the amount of data you can send, it costs about $50 per month to use ARDIS's IKON e-mail service. If you choose RAM Mobile Data's service, you'll pay a $50 one-time activation fee, and between $9 and $109 per month depending on which plan you choose.

Verdict: Packet radio is for power users who want to stay in touch no matter where they are. It's great for getting e-mail, some file transfers, and dedicated corporate applications, but Web surfing is slow. With speeds of 4.8Kbps to 19.2Kbps for sending and receiving data, it's not the fastest way to connect.

Radio Frequency

Radio frequency (RF), like infrared, is used primarily as a means of sending data within the confines of rooms and buildings. But RF isn't limited to short, line-of-sight transmissions. Depending on its frequency, strength, and data load, an RF signal can have a range of hundreds of feet or more. And RF can penetrate windows, walls, and bathroom stalls, barriers that would block IR. (For more details, see "How Radio Frequency Works," above.)

As with infrared, you'll find a wide selection of RF wireless networks, printers, keyboards, and mice. Because RF is broadcast from these devices omnidirectionally, you don't have to worry about accurate pointing as you do with IR. Of course if the person in the cubicle next to

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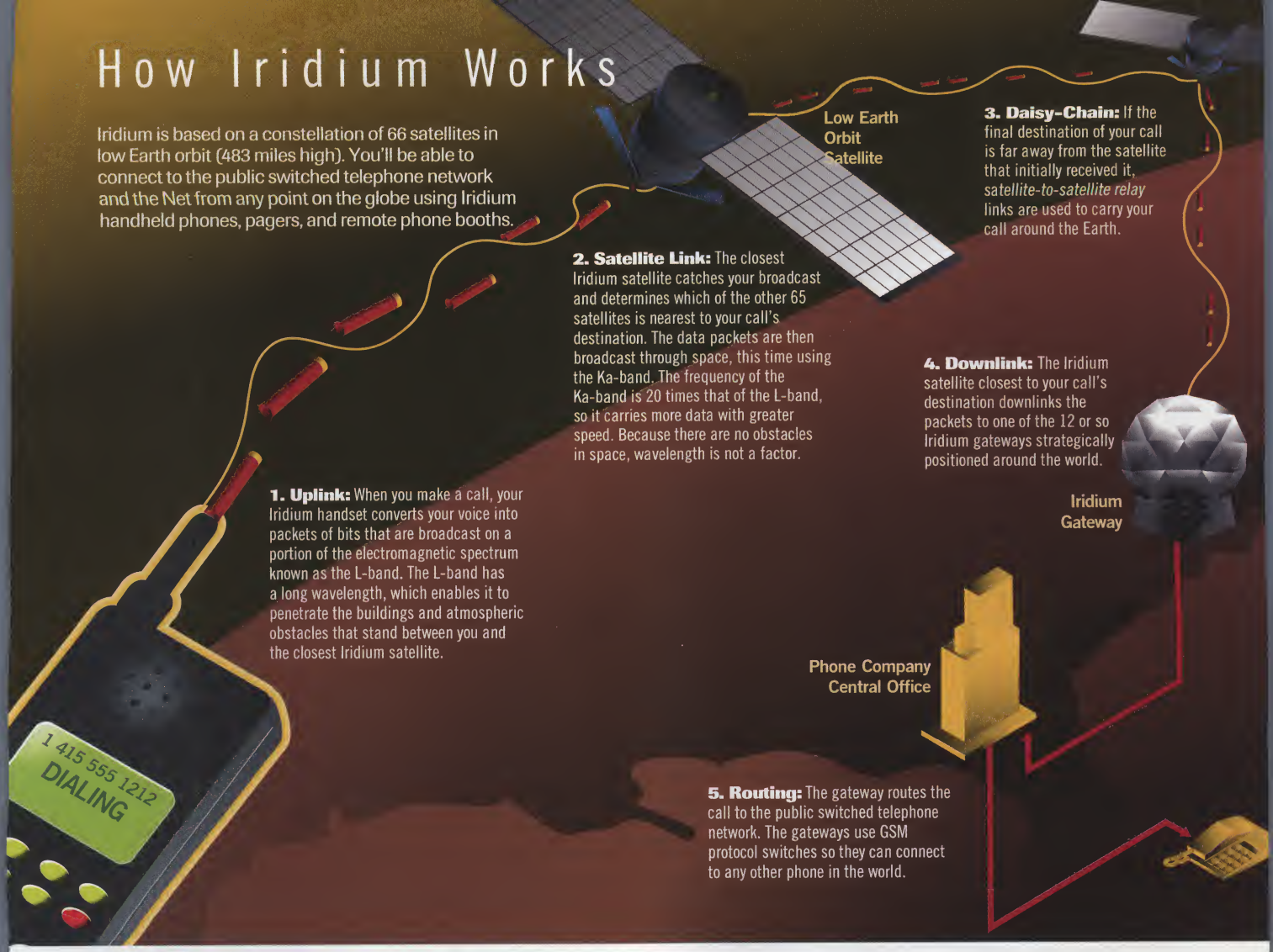
[1]24X Max CD-ROM drive data transfer rates may vary from 1500 to 3600 Kbps. [2]The K56flex protocol is designed only to allow faster downloads from K56flex compliant sources. Maximum achievable download transmission rates currently do not reach 56 Kbps and will vary with line conditions. [3]14X Max CD-ROM drive data transfer rates may vary from 1200 to 1800 Kbps. All Compaq products sold at Compaq Works are refurbished unless otherwise noted. Our selection of refurbished products includes customer return units, evaluation units, cosmetically blemished products and older discontinued products. All refurbished products are retested at Compaq, where replacement of components is made, if necessary, to bring the product up to fully functional condition. All refurbished products carry a 90-day, limited warranty and may be taken to any Compaq Authorized Service Agent for service. All excess new products carry the Compaq standard limited warranty. For a complete copy of our warranties, please write Compaq Works, 10251 N. Freeway, Houston TX 77037. Compaq Works shall not be liable for technical, pictorial or editorial errors or omissions contained herein. Product availability limited to products on hand. All prices shown are Compaq Works prices and do not include applicable state and local sales tax or shipping to recipient's destination. All sales FOB Houston. Prices subject to change. Compaq, Presario and the Compaq logo are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Other names and logos may be trademarks of their respective owners.



you uses the same type of RF mouse you do, you might experience some interference that you can avoid with IR.

A wireless network is the most practical use for RF. Radio frequency networks can be stand-alone entities, but typically they're used as wireless extensions of wired Ethernet networks. The drawback to RF? Its cost: two to three times that of wired networks.

Verdict: Radio frequency is the best choice for wireless networks because of its speed and ability to move data over longer distances and through walls. For peripherals it's also a good bet; choose it over IR when you can.

Satellite

When it comes to radio, the best antenna is the tallest antenna. That's because the higher you go, the fewer signal-blocking obstacles you confront. Accordingly, the sky's the limit with the next generation of wireless technologies. Enter satellite-based networks.

Unlike satellite TV and Internet connections, such as Hughes' DirecDuo, you don't have to own a satellite dish to use these networks. Instead, you use a special phone or pager that links to the nearest satellite in the system—whether you're in Peoria or Papua New Guinea.

One of the first such networks is Motorola's Iridium system, slated to roll out in September. Iridium is made up of 66 satellites in low Earth orbit, some 483 miles up. (For more details, see "How Iridium Works," above.) Using an Iridium handheld phone, pager, or telephone booth, you'll be able to communicate with both cellular phones and regular phones, as well as Iridium devices.

The promise of sending and receiving voice or data from anywhere on Earth is enticing, but there are downsides to Iridium. First, because data travels such long distances, it moves slowly—at a mere 2.4Kbps. Second, all those state-of-the-art satellites are expensive: Phones are expected to cost up to $3,000, and airtime charges are estimated to be 25 percent higher than long-distance rates.

More futuristic systems, including Globalstar, Odyssey, and Teledesic—the one Bill Gates is backing—use as many as 840 satellites each. With more satellites comes the promise of faster speeds for broadband Net connections: from 64Kbps to as high as 155Mbps.

Verdict: For the short term, Iridium and other satellite-based systems are expensive tools suitable only for those in remote locations. But in the long run, satellites could very well compete with both cellular and traditional phone systems. Stay tuned.

Wireless Wonders

Wireless products have come a long way since the Clapper. Whether you want to clear your desk of cables, give a presentation without being chained to your notebook, or connect the entire office without wires, there's a wireless product that solves your problem. Here are our top picks.

Clear Off Your Desk

There you sit, tethered to your computer by keyboard and mouse cables, spending your days shackled to the end of a 2-foot chain. And when it's time to give a presentation, this bondage becomes intolerable.

Solution Kick back and relax. With a radio frequency (RF) keyboard like the RF-25 Wireless SurfBoard sitting on your lap, you can convert your old keyboard tray into an ottoman. And how much more dynamic would your presentations be with a Silitek infrared PC Remote Control in your hand? You can take advantage of its 23-foot range by moving around the room as you speak, making your audience believe that you really *are* excited about your subject matter. You'll also appreciate its arsenal of cool software, including ShowWiz, which lets you jazz up your presentations. Finally, if a short cable has you feeling mouse-trapped at your desk, liberate yourself with Logitech's RF Cordless MouseMan Pro. It's more comfortable to hold, and the nifty CyberJump and HyperJump buttons launch a customizable batch of eight commands for Windows 95, Internet Explorer, and Netscape Navigator.

Free at Last: Eliminate that rat's nest of wires with Logitech's Cordless MouseMan Pro.

RF-25 Wireless SurfBoard / Wireless Computing / (512) 263-8204 / $399 est. street price / *Enter 601 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

PC Remote Control / Silitek (CASCO Products) / (800) 793-6960 / $25 est. street price / *Enter 602 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Cordless MouseMan Pro / Logitech / (800) 732-3039 / $79 est. street price / *Enter 603 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Print Without Wires

You move from one office to another faster than the Hong Kong flu. And in each place, you're faced with the annoying hassle of connecting your notebook to a printer. You know the drill: Turn the heavy printer at least thirty degrees away from the wall, grope around the back for a port you can't see, plug in your notebook, and wipe all the dust and unidentifiable stickiness that was back there onto your Haggar slacks.

Solution Reclaim your dignity. With infrared printers like Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet 6P, all you do is point and shoot and your notebook fires a cone of invisible light in a 3-foot range. The Fast-IR data-transfer speed—4Mbps—is equivalent to that of traditional parallel ports. Using the IR port, complex documents print at the decent rate of 8 pages per minute. But if you don't want to pitch your existing printer, soup up the one you have with an IR printer interface adapter for a fraction of the price. The ActiSys ACT-IR 100M printer adapter is incredibly easy to set up—just plug it into your printer port and run the Add Infrared Device Wizard. However, while ACT-IR's range is equal to that of HP's LaserJet 6P, its data-transfer speed isn't up to Fast-IR standards.

Fire When Ready: Using infrared you can point, shoot, and print with the HP LaserJet 6P.

LaserJet 6P / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / $799 est. street price

ACT-IR 100M / ActiSys Corp. / (888) 860-9880 / $99 est. street price / *Enter 604 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARRY ROBINSON

Connect Computers Without Cables

You want to move your business into one of those warehouses down by the docks where all the hip young companies have set up shop. Problem is, laying wires in the old building will require major structural changes.

Solution With a RadioLAN system, you can connect all your company's PCs to your network without wires. The Wireless BackboneLink acts as a bridge between wireless and wired networks and supports up to 128 workstations within its 120-foot RF range. If your range needs are greater, just add more BackboneLinks. RadioLAN's PC CardLink makes portable computers wireless, while its ISA CardLink does the same for desktop PCs. The data-transfer rate is a whopping 10Mbps—full Ethernet speed.

Wireless BackboneLink / RadioLAN / (888) 272-3465 / $999 list price / *Enter 605 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

PC CardLink / $449 est. street price / *Enter 606 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

ISA CardLink / $349 est. street price / *Enter 607 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

No Wires: The RadioLAN system is the only radio-frequency network that offers full Ethernet speed.

Do As the Roamers Do: The Metricom Ricochet SE Wireless Modem has an 8 to 12 hour battery life; the LCD screen keeps you posted on how much juice remains.

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Your boss is at a trade show in Japan and it's a gorgeous, El Niño–free day. You want to get out and play nine holes, but you're afraid she might fire an e-mail message at you. If you're not in the office to receive it, e-mail may not be all she's firing.

Solution With a Metricom Ricochet SE Wireless Modem in your notebook or PDA, you can receive and respond to the boss's e-mail remotely, and she'll have no idea you're not in the office. And if you just double-bogeyed the sixth hole, log onto golf.com for some tips before you hit the seventh tee. The Ricochet offers data-transfer speeds of up to 28.8Kbps. But the kicker is that the Ricochet—at least for now—offers service only in Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, Washington D.C., and a few university campuses.

Ricochet SE Wireless Modem / Metricom / (800) 469-4735 / $349 est. street price for modem, $30 per month for service / *Enter 608 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

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CreditCard Ethernet 10/100+Modem 56 / Xircom / (800) 438-4526 / $322 est. street price / *Enter 609 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

PCS1900 Cellular Connection Kit / $41 est. street price / *Enter 610 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

PCS1900 Connection Kit / $109 est. street price / *Enter 611 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

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eamer?

To help sort it out, *PC Computing*'s Performance Labs put thirteen 333MHz Pentium II systems through the hoops, comparing them with each other as well as with 16 PCs that cost one grand or less. The results? You don't need to spend more than $4,000 on a high-end Pentium II; some of the best cost less than $2,500.

On the other hand, if a $1,000 budget cap is enough to make you groan, consider that today it can buy you as much as a 233MHz Pentium II CPU, 32MB of RAM, a 5.1GB hard drive, a 32-speed CD-ROM drive, a fax modem, audio, speakers, and a monitor.

Your purchasing manager will remind you there's a difference between $1,000 and $2,500. And performance needs vs. budget reality isn't the only issue that comes into play when choosing PCs. Usability, expandability, and depreciation also affect your purchase. But as these 29 systems prove, it's possible to have it all.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERNIE FRIEDLANDER

$1,000 WORKHORSE

- 200MHz or faster MMX Pentium or Pentium II.
- Well stocked: 32MB of RAM, 2GB or larger hard drive, 20-speed or faster CD-ROM drive, fax modem, and monitor—plus other extras.
- Great for multimedia, the Web, and Windows 95 business applications.

BY MARTY JEROME

333MHz Powerhouses

Their prices vary by nearly $2,000. The fastest outpaces the slowest by more than 15 percent. Some come loaded to the gunwales; others are bare-bones. But all of the 333MHz Pentium II systems we tested deliver unbeatable performance across the widest range of business apps.

When you draw a trio of threes in a poker hand, your luck can go either way. When the same triptych describes your system's clock speed, you've hit the jackpot.

Intel's top-of-the-line 333MHz MMX Pentium II CPU is today's chip of choice for rendering 3-D graphics, playing full-motion video and animation sequences in business presentations, and running power-hungry CAD and scientific modeling applications. The chip is also the best choice for meat-and-potatoes spreadsheets and word processors. It's a relatively small uptick in clock speed from the 300MHz version of the chip introduced only a few months ago, and prices for the faster CPU remain virtually the same.

That's one reason to buy a 333MHz Pentium II. *PC Computing*'s Labs can give you several others. We put thirteen 333MHz PCs through an exhaustive gamut of Windows application tests to determine not only which systems were faster, but why. We also compared them with a next-generation Pentium II (due out by the time you read this) based on the BX chip set running at 350MHz. The prerelease test system from motherboard maker BCM has a higher clock speed as well as a speedier bus: 100MHz, compared with the LX chip set's 66MHz. In our tests the BCM system outpaced the fastest 333MHz contender by 38 percent.

For the most part, the 333MHz systems stacked up toe-to-toe. All come with 64MB of RAM. All but the Amax Engineering Power Station 6333 use synchronous DRAM chips.

Best Overall: Gateway 2000's G6-333 has everything you could ask for—unbeatable speed, cutting-edge technology, and first-rate usability. It outpaced every other machine in this roundup, and comes with an eye-popping 14GB hard drive, a DVD drive, and a Zip drive. You also get a raft of software.

And while secondary cache technologies vary from machine to machine, all come with 512K. This means that overall performance differences played out in disk and video speed.

Holy Cow Gateway 2000's G6-333 is a case in point. The machine's performance was stunning—almost across the board. It was fastest in Windows application tests, aided by fiery-fast disk performance from IBM's DTTA 371400 hard drive. Video performance in our tests was also speedy, though less so when running graphics applications.

In line with this performance, the G6-333's credentials are impeccable. Its hard drive warehouses 14GB, by far the largest

SMART CHOICES

Memory: While some manufacturers stock their systems with a stingy 32MB of RAM, get 64MB for a 333MHz Pentium II machine—more if you're running Windows NT. And make sure there are open slots for adding more RAM later.

Multimedia: Make sure there's at least 4MB of memory on your graphics accelerator. Better audio systems provide surround sound and wavetable synthesis. Also look for a subwoofer included with the speakers.

Expansion Slots: How many are open? In addition to free ISA and PCI slots, you'll want an AGP slot as well. Typically it will be a shared PCI/AGP slot.

Monitor: The 17-inch standard is quickly giving way to 19-inch models. A bigger screen lets you work faster and quickly pays for itself.

Best Value: The NEC Direction SPL 333 serves up power and features at a budget-pleasing price of a mere $2,398. Its performance was second fastest overall, and it comes with a 9GB hard drive, a 32-speed CD-ROM drive, an advanced audio system, and a 17-inch monitor.

Best Usability: Polywell's Poly 7333 MD2 is built to grow with you—and it makes it easy along the way. The Poly seats two CPUs if you need extra muscle. It can take up to 1GB of RAM. And it has plenty of expansion slots. Its basic architecture is also excellent: Upgrades are a snap.

of the lot. There's also a DVD drive, a Zip drive, two USB ports, a fax modem, and a superb Boston Acoustics audio system with a subwoofer. When your needs call for a top-of-the-line business box, the G6-333's got your name on it.

If the machine's $2,805 price tag is too steep, NEC's Direction SPL 333 costs $2,398 yet delivers performance that's almost as fast. As with the Gateway machine, speedy hard drive performance gave it the edge.

There's plenty under the Direction's hood, too. You get a 9GB hard drive, a blazing 32-speed CD-ROM drive, a 56Kbps fax modem, integrated audio, and a fine pair of Altec Lansing ACS90 speakers. As dollar value goes, you won't find better bang for the buck.

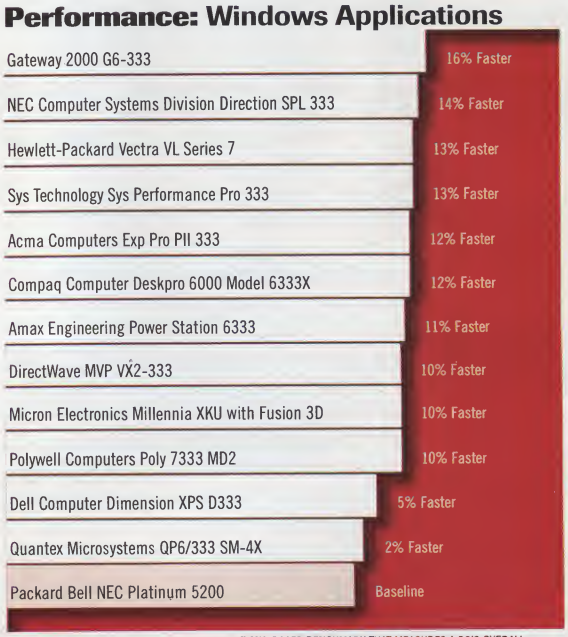
Easy Upgrades Where usability is concerned, Polywell Computers' Poly 7333 MD2 puts offerings from blue-chip makers to shame. It was the only machine we tested that provided a slot for a second CPU. Three of four memory slots are free. In addition to the PCI/AGP slot, there are three PCI slots, one ISA slot, and one shared slot. No other machine scales up as well. All components are exceptionally easy to reach, making upgrades and repairs a snap. Its $2,650 price is a little steep, but at least you get an 8.4GB hard drive.

Sys Technology's Performance Pro 333 gets a nod for its performance. The machine's $2,649 sticker is a bit high, given that the hard drive is only 6.4GB and the 24-speed CD-ROM drive turned in mediocre performance.

When our testing was finished, some results left us scratching our heads. Dell's Dimension XPS D333 turned in the second-fastest disk performance. But the machine's overall performance was unremarkable—uncharacteristically so for a Dell. Worse, it's pricey at $2,829. On the other hand, that price fetches a big 8.4GB hard drive, a DVD drive, excellent audio and speakers, and a fax modem.

Hewlett-Packard's Vectra VL was also a bit of a mystery. The machine performed mighty well. But $3,030 is high when you consider that the hard drive is 6.4GB and the machine lacks Zip and DVD drives, a fax modem, speakers, and AGP graphics. Its usability could use work as well—a

Performance: Windows Applications



NOTE: WINSTONE 98 IS A SYSTEM-LEVEL, APPLICATIONS-BASED BENCHMARK THAT MEASURES A PC'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE WHEN RUNNING THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS-BASED 32-BIT BUSINESS APPLICATIONS.

Triple-Digit Winners: The top performers were neck-and-neck, but the Gateway 2000 G6-333's speedy disk performance put it in the lead.

Top 333MHz Systems

PRODUCT*	Price**	RAM (Tested/Max.)	Graphics Accelerator	Hard Disk/ CD-ROM	Pros	Cons	Verdict
PC Computing BEST **Gateway 2000 G6-333** (800) 846-2000 *InfoLink No. 614*	$2,805	64MB/ 384MB	4MB STB Velocity 128 AGP	14GB IBM DTTA-371400/Toshiba DVD II ROM SD-M1102	Stunning performance; gargantuan hard drive; fully stocked, including a Zip drive.	You'll pay for the privilege.	★★★★★ When only the best will do.
Amax Engineering Corp. Power Station 6333 (800) 800-6328 *InfoLink No. 615*	$2,499	64MB/ 512MB	8MB Number Nine Revolution 3D AGP	6.4GB Quantum Fireball ST/ 32X Toshiba XM6202B-TA	Fine dollar value; 8MB of video memory; Zip drive.	Middling performance; hard drive could be bigger.	★★★★ Better deal for your money than a lot of blue-chip PCs.
Dell Computer Corp. Dimension XPS D333 (800) 388-8542 *InfoLink No. 616*	$2,829	64MB/ 384MB	4MB STB Velocity 128 AGP	8.4GB Seagate ST391408/ Hitachi DVD-ROM GD-2000	Feature-rich; good-size hard drive.	Not the fastest; pricey.	★★★★ Loaded, but you'll pay a premium.
DirectWave MVP VX2-333 (800) 882-8108 *InfoLink No. 622*	$2,499	64MB/ 384MB	4MB Diamond Viper V330 AGP	8.4GB Maxtor 88400D8/32X Toshiba XM6202B	Big hard drive; loaded with goodies; 19-inch monitor.	Middling performance.	★★★★ A workhorse that won't disappoint.
NEC Computer Systems Division Direction SPL 333 (888) 863-2669 *InfoLink No. 617*	$2,398	64MB/ 384MB	4MB Diamond Viper V330 AGP	9GB Seagate Medalist ST39140A/ 32X NEC 282	Sizzling performance; nice big drive; excellent price.	Where are our DVD and Zip drives?	★★★★ Stellar dollar value.
Polywell Computers Poly 7333 MD2 (800) 999-1278 *InfoLink No. 618*	$2,650	64MB/ 1GB	8MB Diamond Fire GL 1000 Pro AGP	8.4GB Quantum Fireball/24X Toshiba 6102B	Plenty of room to grow, including a second CPU; big drive.	Priced on the high end, performs in the midrange.	★★★★ A usability star.
Sys Technology Sys Performance Pro 333 (800) 613-9963 *InfoLink No. 619*	$2,649	64MB/ 512MB	8MB Number Nine Revolution 3D AGP	6.4GB IBM DHEA-36480/24X Teac CD-524E	Excellent performance.	A bit expensive; could use a bigger hard drive.	★★★★ A fast but expensive date.

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.PCCOMPUTING.COM/INFOLINK. **ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

continued on page 200

cooling pipe for the CPU blocks access to memory slots. Removing the CPU daughterboard is also awkward.

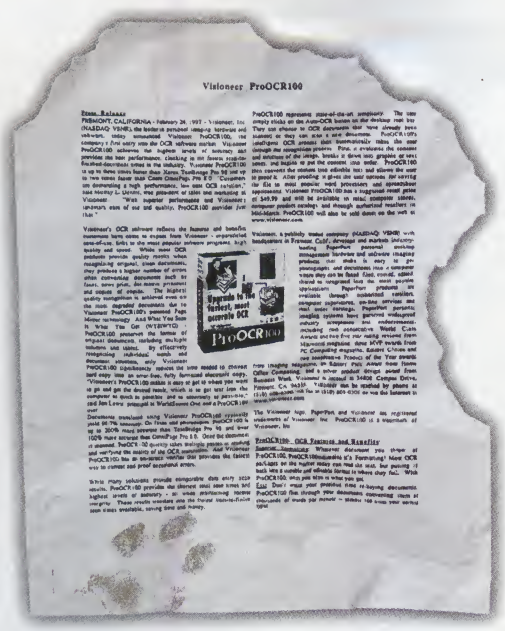
But if you think the Vectra's price is high, consider the Compaq Deskpro 6000 Model 6333X's: $4,100. It buys you a 4.3GB hard drive, a 24-speed CD-ROM drive, a 4MB Matrox Millennium II AGP graphics card, integrated Ethernet, and a fax modem. Performance was fine. But we'll wait for a sale.

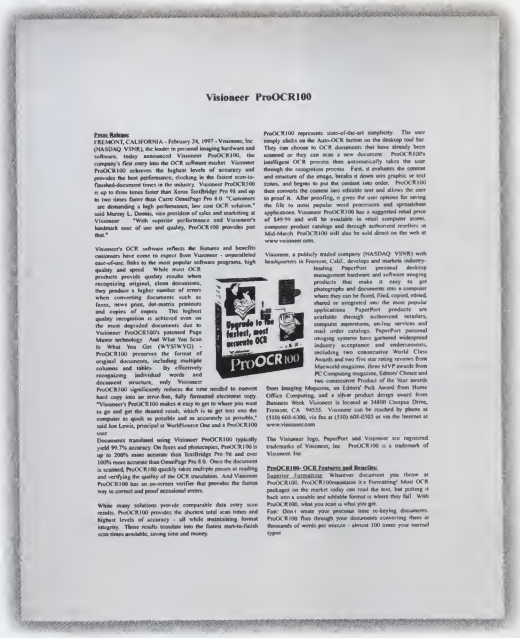
Like the Gateway G6-333, Micron's Millennia XKU with Fusion 3D comes with both a DVD drive and a Zip drive. It's also got a fax modem and splendid audio. But performance was average, and the machine's $3,173 price is second only to the Compaq. You can do better for the money.

Acma Computers' Exp Pro PII 333 and Amax Engineering's Power Station 6333 are peas in a pod. Both come with 6.4GB hard drives, 32-speed CD-ROM drives, audio, and speakers. Both are middling performers. The $2,499 Amax Power Station, however, is almost $200 cheaper and comes with more video memory (8MB vs. 4MB) and a Zip drive. It's the better of the two, but it doesn't match the NEC Direction for price/performance value.

Neither does DirectWave's $2,499 MVP VX2-333, though the system is loaded. It comes with a big 8.4GB hard drive, a 32-speed CD-ROM drive, a 56Kbps fax modem, a USB port, audio, and a decent pair of speakers. It's a fine system to consider.

Packard Bell NEC's Platinum 5200 is another alternative. Its $2,479 price tag nabs you a 6.2GB hard drive, a DVD-ROM drive, a fax modem, audio, and speakers (built into the monitor). The only complaint we have is with performance—it brought up the rear.





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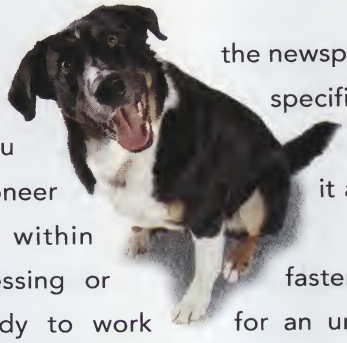

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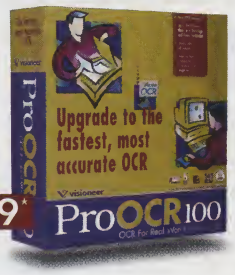

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Product	Retail Price*	Speed** (in seconds)	99% Accuracy†	OCR Wizard	HTML Output	Fax Support	WYSIWYG Editor
Visioneer ProOCR100	**$49.99**	**22**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
Xerox TextBridge®Pro	$79.99	52	X	X	X	X	X
Caere OmniPage®Pro	$129.99	32	X	X	X	X	X

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* As of March 1, 1998.
** OCR times based on Visioneer's internal testing.
† On laser quality output documents.

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Top 333MHz Systems

continued from page 198

PRODUCT*	Price**	RAM (Tested/Max.)	Graphics Accelerator	Hard Disk/ CD-ROM	Pros	Cons	Verdict
Acma Computers Exp Pro PII 333 (800) 786-6888 *InfoLink No. 620*	$2,695	64MB/ 384MB	4MB Number Nine Revolution 3D AGP	6.4GB Quantum Fireball ST/32X Toshiba XM6202B	Top-notch CD-ROM performance.	On the pricey side; smallish hard drive.	☆☆☆ An up-and-comer.
Compaq Computer Corp. Deskpro 6000 Model 6333X *InfoLink No. 621*	$4,100	64MB/ 384MB	4MB Matrox Millennium II AGP	4.3GB Quantum Viking/24X Hitachi CDR 8235	Decent performance; 19-inch monitor.	Understocked with a wimpy hard drive; most expensive of the group.	☆☆☆ Extremely high price for what you get.
Hewlett-Packard Vectra VL Series 7 (800) 322-4772	$3,030	64MB/ 384MB	8MB Matrox Millennium II PCI	6.4GB Quantum Fireball ST/ 24X Hitachi CDR-8330	Respectable performance; a generous 8MB of video memory.	Stingy hard drive; pricey; lacks AGP graphics, a fax modem, and speakers.	☆☆☆ A solid corporate tool.
Micron Electronics Millennia XKU with Fusion 3D (800) 736-4276 *InfoLink No. 623*	$3,173	64MB/ 384MB	4MB Diamond Viper V330 AGP	6.4GB IBM Deskstar DHEA-36480/Hitachi DVD-ROM II GD-2000	DVD and Zip drives; nice configuration; a 19-inch monitor.	Pricey; middle-of-the-pack performance; smallish hard drive.	☆☆☆ A pleasing machine if you're not on a tight budget.
Packard Bell NEC Platinum 5200 (800) 733-5858 *InfoLink No. 624*	$2,479	64MB/ 384MB	4MB ATI 3D Rage Pro AGP	6.2GB Seagate ST36540A/Hitachi DVD-ROM II GD-2000	Great price; DVD drive.	Slowest performance of the group; we wish it were stocked with a bigger hard drive.	☆☆☆ A budget-pleasing system.
Quantex Microsystems QP6/333 SM-4X (800) 787-8686 *InfoLink No. 625*	$2,499	64MB/ 512MB	4MB Diamond Viper 330 AGP	6.4GB Western Digital Caviar AC36400-00LC/ 32X Toshiba XM-6202B	Solid configuration, including a 19-inch monitor; affordable price.	Lazy performance; hard drive on the small side.	☆☆☆ A respectable, if slow, machine.

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.PCCOMPUTING.COM/INFOLINK. **ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

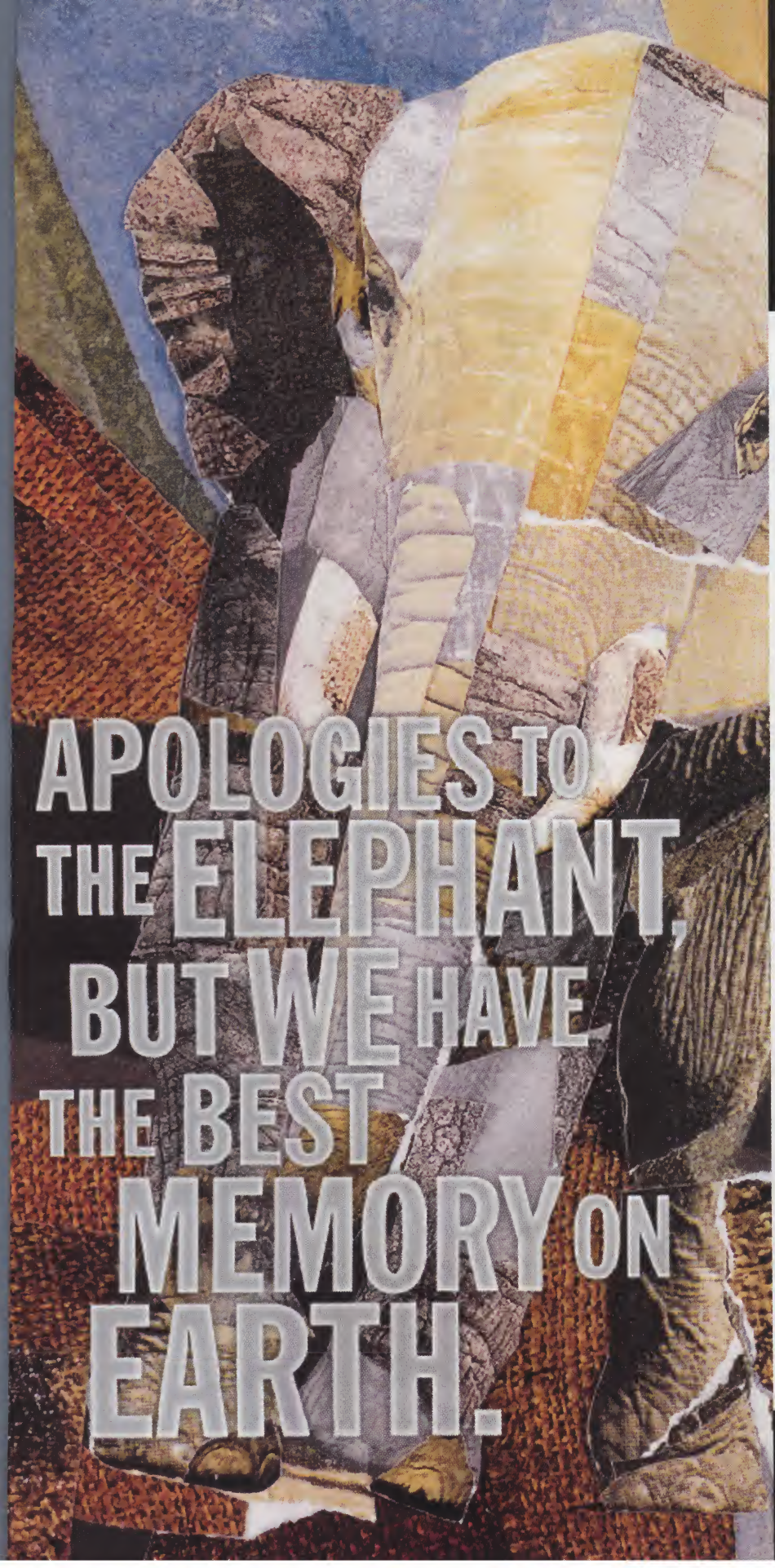
☆☆☆☆☆ *Excellent* ☆☆☆☆ *Good* ☆☆☆ *Acceptable* ☆☆ *Poor* ☆ *Unacceptable*

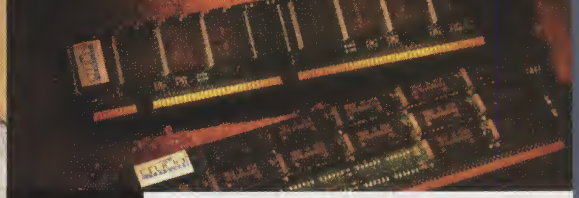
333 MHz SYSTEMS Usability Close-ups

No Tools Required: Hewlett-Packard's Vectra VL has a screw-free case for easy removal.

Button Up: Control surround sound, voice mail, and faxes from buttons on the Platinum 5200's keyboard.

In the Way: The Compaq Deskpro 6000's awkward daughterboard blocks other components.





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Value Desktops

The $1,000 price is a shocker. The best part is these systems provide more than enough power for your bread-and-butter business applications. Yet they cost less than half the price of a 333MHz system. Which gives you better bang for the buck? You do the math.

Best Overall: Who says one grand doesn't buy a lot of PC? Magitronic Technology's G-P2233 was the only Pentium II in this roundup. Its performance blew all the other systems away. The machine's loaded, too. There's a 3.2GB hard drive, a 4MB video card, and a fax modem.

What can you expect from a PC that costs less than an off-the-rack suit from Macy's? Quite a lot, as it turns out. Powered by 200MHz and 233MHz Pentium, Pentium II, AMD-K6, and 6x86 CPUs with big L2 caches and 32MB of memory, the systems we tested deliver plenty of performance for typical business apps. They're primed for multimedia, thanks to 24- and 32-speed CD-ROM drives, 3-D video accelerators—many of which come with 4MB of memory—plus audio and speakers. Most even feature 56Kbps fax modems. If there's any component that will leave you wanting, it's the small 14- and 15-inch monitors (included in the $1,000 price). Beg, borrow, or steal to get a 17-inch model.

Magitronic Technology's G-P2233 exemplifies the best of this new breed of PC. It's the only 233MHz Pentium II in our roundup. Not surprisingly, it was far and away the fastest among $1,000 machines—still, that's around 50 percent slower than the 333MHz systems. It's also loaded. It comes with a 3.2GB hard drive, a 24-speed CD-ROM drive, and a 33.6Kbps fax modem. There's an AGP slot and two USB ports. Its usability is also top-notch.

CompUSA PC's American A233 lagged well behind the Magitronic G-P2233 in performance, but only slightly behind Everex Systems' superfast AGI MMX 233. Arguably, the American A233 offers better dollar value than its faster competitors. Outfitted with a 233MHz MMX Pentium CPU, it has a big 512K L2 cache and six memory slots for bumping up its DRAM to as much as you need. Its 4.3GB hard drive is larger than the Magitronic's, and its 32-speed CD-ROM drive and 56Kbps fax modem are faster.

Room to Grow For usability, look to Everex's AGI MMX 233. Not coincidentally, it was the second-fastest system in our testing, thanks to a monster 1,024K L2 cache. The machine has six memory slots (four are available). Everything within its case is easy to reach for upgrades and repairs. Kudos for the microphone and speaker ports on the sound card. This PC earns a near-perfect score for usability.

Like the Magitronic G-P2233, Packard Bell NEC's

SMART CHOICES

CPU: Clock speed doesn't guarantee better performance. In general, AMD's 200MHz K6 CPU performs as well as or better than 233MHz Pentium chips. Not so for Cyrix's 6x86. You can even find a Pentium II in this range. Also make sure your system comes with a big 512K L2 cache.

Multimedia: A 24- or 32-speed CD-ROM drive is standard equipment. But can your graphics card keep up? Better systems come with 4MB of video memory. Also, your PC's audio system won't include a subwoofer or advanced speakers, but does it have surround sound?

Monitor: The biggest compromise in this price range is a small screen. If your budget doesn't let you upgrade to a 17-inch monitor, make sure your screen has tight focus at the edges of the display and fully saturated colors.

Memory: Don't expect more than 32MB in this budget ballpark. But make sure there are open memory slots for adding more RAM later. Otherwise, you'll have to throw away your existing memory chips to upgrade.

Best Value: It's not just that CompUSA PC's American A233 delivers superb performance. The 233MHz MMX Pentium PC is stocked: a 512K L2 cache, 4.3GB hard drive, 32-speed CD-ROM drive, 56Kbps fax modem, and excellent audio. Talk about stretching your dollar.

Best Usability: Everex's speedy AGI MMX 233 is built for upgrades. It has four empty memory slots, and everything in the case is easy to reach. Plus the AGI MMX 233 was the second fastest performer, thanks to its whopping 1,024K L2 cache.

Multimedia S700 comes with a monster 5.1GB hard drive. Unfortunately, it has a small, 256K L2 cache, which no doubt contributed to its middle-of-the-pack performance. The All Computer Technology Value BR-998, the CompUSA PC American A233, and the Comtrade First SC5-233 all come with big 4.3GB hard drives. The 200MHz Value BR-998 was slightly slower than the speedy American A233—but it was faster than several 233MHz machines and includes a 56Kbps fax modem. It's a solid value.

The Polywell Computers Poly 500QX2 is powered by a 200MHz K6 chip from AMD. Its performance was quite good—faster than that of several 233MHz Pentium boxes. The CyberMax Computer PowerMax 2 uses the MMX version of Cyrix's 6x86. Its performance was weak, but it comes with a decent 3.2GB hard drive and a 56Kbps fax modem. It's not a bad buy, but you can certainly find more giddyap for the dollar.

Bring In the Specialists If you can't afford a 17-inch monitor, the Seanix Baby Grand-CS and the Packard Bell Multimedia have the best screens for clarity, focus, and color. If CD-ROM performance is paramount, the drives on the Amax Engineering Power Station Plus 5200 and the CompUSA American blew the others away. (Unfortunately, the Power Station's overall performance was less inspired.) And if you're looking for a great software bundle, the CyberMax PowerMax 2, the Magitronic G-P2233, the Micro X MVD-5100, and the Packard Bell Multimedia are your best bets.

Did we find any machines that'll steer you wrong? The Compaq Presario 2240's dreary performance and stingy configuration—a 2.1GB hard drive and only a 20-speed CD-ROM drive—can't keep pace with the other systems. At least it comes with a fax modem. And the Comtrade First SC5-233 had the second-slowest performance overall next to the Presario. But none of these systems is a dog. And given their impossible prices, that says a lot. While the 333MHz machines may outpace them and come with more frills, these $1,000 boxes are more than adequate to handle all of your bread-and-butter Windows 95 applications.

Performance: Windows Applications

NOTE: WINSTONE 98 IS A SYSTEM-LEVEL, APPLICATIONS-BASED BENCHMARK THAT MEASURES A PC'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE WHEN RUNNING THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS-BASED 32-BIT BUSINESS APPLICATIONS.

Big Little League: It's no surprise that the sole 233MHz Pentium II in this roundup beat vanilla Pentiums—as well as offerings from AMD and Cyrix.

Top $1,000 Systems

PRODUCT*	Price**	CPU	RAM (Tested/Max.)	Graphics Accelerator	Hard Disk/ CD-ROM	Pros	Cons	Verdict
PC Computing BEST **Magitronic Technology G-P2233** (800) 454-8754 *InfoLink No. 626*	$999	233MHz Pentium II	32MB/ 1GB	4MB S3 Virge 3D DX PCI	3.2GB Western Digital AC33200/ 24X Goldstar B-CD-R8240B	Best Windows performance in roundup; excellent configuration, including a 4MB video card and an AGP slot; nice software bundle.	Middling CD-ROM performance.	★★★★★ A PC that proves the budget hawks won't slow you down.
All Computer Technology Value BR-998 (800) 775-1953 *InfoLink No. 627*	$998	200MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	4MB S3 Virge 375 DX PCI	4.3GB IBM DHEA-34860/ 24X Toshiba XM-6102B	Good performance; rich configuration, including 4MB of video memory.	No USB ports; skimpy software bundle.	★★★★ Put it on your shortlist.
American Multisystems InfoGold (800) 888-6615 *InfoLink No. 628*	$990	200MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	4MB ATI 3D Expression Plus PCI	3.2GB Quantum Fireball ST/ 24X Toshiba XM6102B	Solid performance; room to grow; 4MB video card.	Usability needs some work.	★★★★ A solid contender.
CompUSA PC American A233 (888) 226-6772 *InfoLink No. 629*	$1,000	233MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	4MB Genoa Phantom PCI	4.3GB Maxtor 84320D4/32X Teac CD-532E	First-rate dollar value; excellent performance; 4MB video card.	Slim software bundle.	★★★★ Don't buy before you look at this machine.
Everex Systems AGI MMX 233 (800) 821-0806 *InfoLink No. 630*	$999	233MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 512MB	2MB Diamond Stealth 2000 Pro PCI	3.2GB Maxtor 83240D3/ 24X BTC BCD	First-rate usability; superb performance.	Requires extra cable for USB; only 2MB of video memory.	★★★★ A machine that grows with your work.
Packard Bell NEC Multimedia S700 (800) 733-5858 *InfoLink No. 632*	$999	233MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	2MB ATI 3D Rage II+	5.1GB Maxtor 85120/24X Goldstar CRD-8240	Whopping-big hard drive; good configuration; nice software.	Middling performance; only 2MB of video memory.	★★★★ Fine dollar value.
Polywell Computers Poly 500QX2 (800) 999-1278 *InfoLink No. 633*	$999	200MHz AMD-K6 MMX	32MB/ 256MB	4MB S3-OEM Virge 3D PCI	2.6GB Fujitsu 3026T/24X Mitsumi MD24	Speedy performance; 4MB of video memory.	Smallish hard drive; no USB ports; limited software bundle.	★★★★ A machine that works as fast as you do.
Seanix Baby Grand-CS (800) 555-4031 *InfoLink No. 634*	$999	200MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	2MB Seanix Pro 3D PCI	2GB Western Digital AC2200/ 24X Mitsumi FX24F	Great CD-ROM performance; good usability.	Lightweight configuration; only 2MB of video memory.	★★★★ A machine your IS department will love.
TigerDirect Tiger GT P-200 (800) 830-0056 *InfoLink No. 635*	$1,000	200MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 512MB	4MB ATI Rage II 3D PCI	3.2GB Western Digital Caviar 23200/24X UTI	Fine configuration, including a color printer and 4MB of video memory.	Mediocre performance.	★★★★ An office tool you'll respect.
Acma Computers Exp 200 (800) 786-6888 *InfoLink No. 636*	$949	200MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	2MB Diamond Stealth 3D 2000 PCI	2.1GB Fujitsu MPB3021AT/ 24X Sony CDU611-10	Fair performance.	Stingy configuration; only 2MB of video memory.	★★★ A great machine for the mail room.

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continued on page 208

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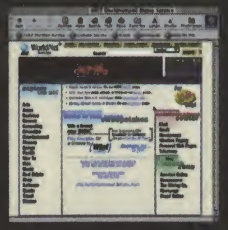

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Top $1,000 Systems

continued from page 204

PRODUCT*	Price**	CPU	RAM (Tested/Max.)	Graphics Accelerator	Hard Disk/ CD-ROM	Pros	Cons	Verdict
Amax Engineering Corp. Power Station Plus 5200 (800) 800-6328 *InfoLink No. 637*	$999	200MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	2MB ATI 3D Rage II PCI	2.1GB Fujitsu MPB3021AT/ 32X Toshiba XM6202B-TA	Top-drawer CD-ROM performance.	Lazy performance overall; no USB ports; only 2MB of video memory.	☆☆☆ Fine for word processing.
Comtrade First SC5-233 (800) 969-2123 *InfoLink No. 638*	$999	233MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	4MB Diamond Stealth 2 S220 PCI	4.3GB Quantum Fireball SE Ultra DMA/32X Mitsumi FX32OS	Big hard drive; 4MB of video memory.	Laggardly performance.	☆☆☆ A fair machine for light productivity.
CyberMax Computer PowerMax 2 (888) 437-4596 *InfoLink No. 639*	$999	200MHz Cyrix 6x86MX PR200	32MB/ 128MB	4MB STB Nitro 3D PCI	3.2GB Western Digital AC33200/ 24X Toshiba XM6102	Excellent CD-ROM performance despite low speed rating of drive; 4MB of video memory; nice software bundle.	Weak Windows performance.	☆☆☆ A good platform for light multimedia.
Micro X MVD-5100 (800) 736-4276 *InfoLink No. 631*	$999	233MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	4MB STB Nitro 3D PCI	3.5GB Fujitsu MPA3035AT/ 24X BTC BCD	Fair performance; 4MB of video memory; nice software bundle.	No USB ports; poor usability.	☆☆☆ A solid, middle-of-the-road PC.
PC Importers Extreme G-200 (800) 759-4695 *InfoLink No. 640*	$899	200MHz MMX Pentium	32MB/ 256MB	4MB STB Nitro 3D PCI	2.1GB Fujitsu MPB3021AT/ 24X BTC SLL	4MB of video memory; fine usability; unassailable price.	Anemic performance; small hard drive; light software bundle.	☆☆☆ A good machine for your assistant.
Compaq Computer Corp. Presario 2240 *InfoLink No. 641*	$999	200MHz AMD-K6 MMX	32MB/ 48MB	2MB S3 Trio64V2	2.1GB Seagate ST321228/ 20X Sanyo CRD-820P	Good fit and finish.	Worst performance of the lot; underconfigured; only 2MB of video memory.	☆☆ Better deals abound.

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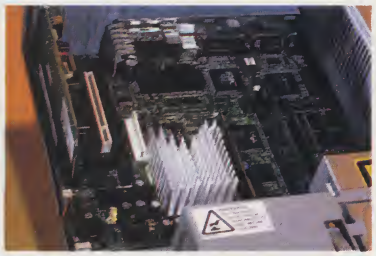
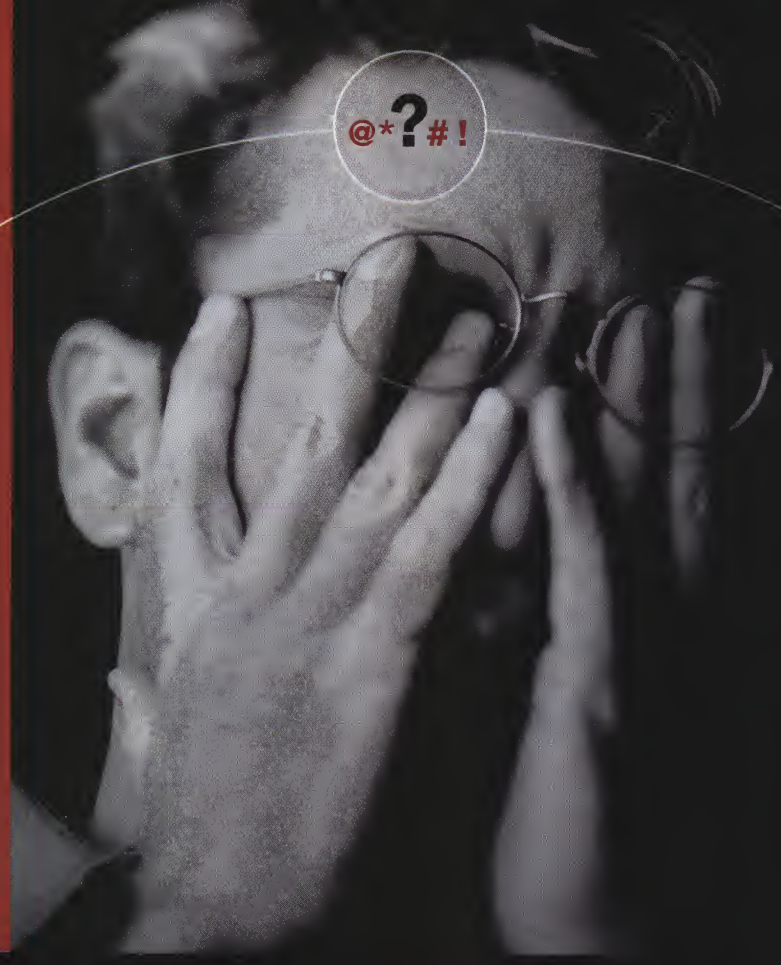
$1,000 PCs Usability Close-ups



No Openings: Compaq's Presario 2240 lacks free RAM slots, making *memory upgrades expensive.*

Add a Peripheral: USB ports shouldn't be a frill. Seanix's Baby Grand-CS includes two.

Sound Choice: Save desktop space with the built-in speakers on the Packard Bell NEC Multimedia S700's monitor.



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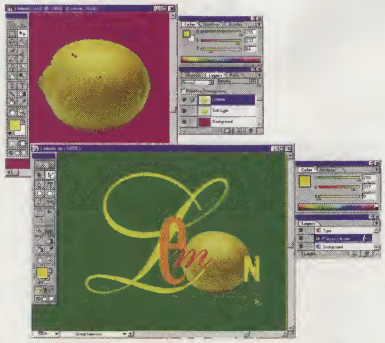

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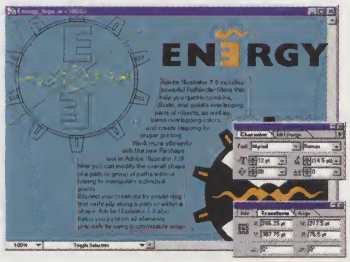

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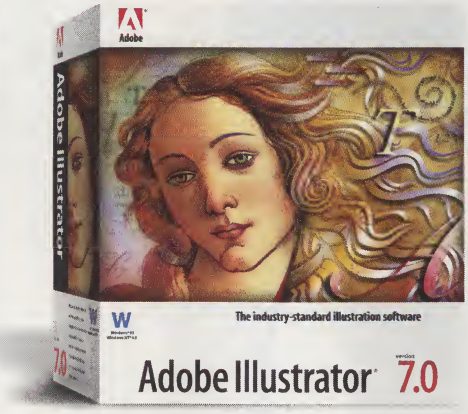

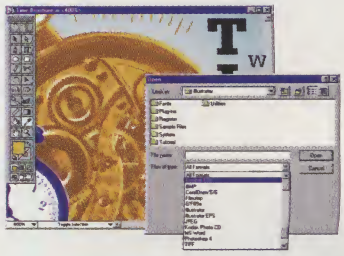

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Live LARGE

NO SQUINTING. LESS SCROLLING. AND MORE ROOM TO VIEW WINDOWS. SUPERSIZE 19-INCH MONITORS PAY FOR THEMSELVES IN NO TIME.

BY CHRIS O'MALLEY

Oh, your aching eyes. Staring down an undersize monitor wasn't exactly what you had in mind when you moved into the corner office. But what choice do you have? A mountain of e-mail, spreadsheets, and Web pages await you.

There is a better way, one that will bring relief to both your bleary eyes and your superhuman workload. It's simple: Buy a bigger monitor. And make it one of the new affordable 19-inchers. These beauties deftly balance the practicality of a monitor designed for everyday business chores with the versatility of one that equips you for occasional presentations, desktop publishing, and design work. A 19-inch monitor offers roughly 25 percent more screen room than a 17-inch display,

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK JOHANN

Priceless Picture: The Sony Multiscan GDM-400PS proves that you get what you pay for. Its vivid colors, photorealistic images, and easy controls are well worth its $1,200 price tag.

often taking up the same space. And at prices ranging from about $700 to $1,200, the 19-inch monitors typically cost around $600 less than their 21-inch siblings.

Better still, 19-inch monitors don't skimp on the essentials. All 13 of the monitors we tested display color-rich images at 1,600 by 1,200 resolution or higher, and all have a 0.28mm or smaller dot pitch.

Is stepping up to a 19-inch display really worth it? Your eyes, no doubt, will tell you yes. But so will your wallet. In the *PC Computing* Usability Labs we found that even the tightest budgets can afford to upgrade, showing that a 19-inch monitor pays for itself in about a month and a half thanks to the productivity boost you get from all that extra room to work in. And that's not all: You'll reclaim more than 17 hours per month working on a bigger screen. (For more details about monitor return on investment see "Monitor the Payback," below.)

The Jury's Out To help you choose a 19-inch display we rounded up 13 contenders. The naked eye remains the only reliable, realistic way to judge a monitor, so we brought in a group of experienced Windows users to test the displays.

We obscured all logos and brand names on the products so that the testers would evaluate the monitors strictly on their image quality. Our testers compared the monitors to one another, side by side, to see how well each fared in displaying a photo-quality image. They also rated each monitor for color quality, photorealism, and text sharpness. Finally, our testers evaluated each display's controls to see which were easiest to use for fine-tuning.

While a monitor's image quality determines what your eye sees, it isn't the only factor. Just as critical to overall image quality is your system's video card. To level the playing field in our tests, we displayed each of the monitors on identically configured PCs. Our video card of choice? *PC Computing*'s MVP Award winner, the 8MB Number Nine Revolution 3D (see "The Best 225 Products of the Year," January, page 171). After

Monitor the Payback

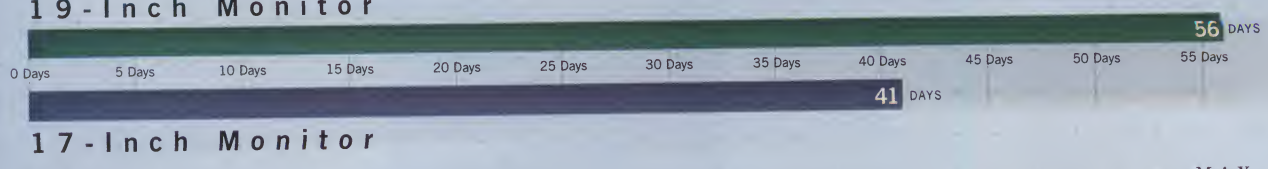
Return on Investment

Can spending more for a bigger display really save you money? It can if it speeds up everyday tasks like Web browsing. Our usability tests and return-on-investment (ROI) analysis shows 19-inch monitors do just that.

After our exhaustive jury test, we brought a second group of testers into the *PC Computing* Usability Labs. We asked this group of experienced Windows users to complete a series of business tasks on a single PC using 15-inch, 17-inch, and 19-inch ViewSonic monitors. Each monitor was set to its optimal resolution—800 by 600 for the 15-inch; 1,024 by 768 for the 17-inch; and 1,280 by 1,024 for the 19-inch. The testers worked their way through nine tasks that mirrored real-world use.

We logged the amount of time it took for the testers to complete each task with each monitor configuration. We then calculated ROI based upon *PC Computing* subscriber data. (To plug your own salary and time spent using a computer into the ROI equations, get the spreadsheet

Payback Time



all, if you invest in a 19-inch monitor you'll want to make sure that your graphics card can keep up.

Knockout Images You'd think with so many contenders it would be hard to single out a clear winner. But that was hardly the case. The Sony Multiscan GDM-400PS swept both our head-to-head comparison and overall image ratings, achieving near-perfect scores for color and image quality. Only in text sharpness, where it finished in a respectable tie for fifth, did the Sony monitor fare less than brilliantly. Even its controls, with zoom and self-diagnosis features, were judged innovative and intuitive.

In fact, the only thing we don't like about the Multiscan GDM-400PS is its $1,200 price tag. In keeping with Sony tradition, that's a hefty premium over most of its 19-inch competitors. But with this monitor you get what you pay for.

Thankfully, our jury testers also found that you don't need to spend as much for a worthy display.

Letter-Perfect: For razor-sharp text display and readability, get the Philips Brilliance 109. It has great color and image quality too.

Close Second: *Iiyama's* VisionMaster 450 delivers great color and image quality—trailing only the superb Sony—yet it costs $300 less.

Iiyama's VisionMaster 450 finished a close second to the Sony monitor in both the comparative and overall rankings. It excelled in both color and image quality, particularly when testers viewed a photo-quality image. Like the Sony, it received good but not great marks for its text display. Its controls were deemed simple, if limited. And at $899, the VisionMaster 450 could stake a claim to being one of the best values in this 19-inch bunch.

But Iiyama may rightly have to share that honor with the 19-inch monitors from ViewSonic, Nokia, and CTX. In our tests, the ViewSonic G790 ($899) finished just behind the Iiyama monitor by the closest of margins, and was among the top four in overall color and image quality. Its only weakness was its text display, which was judged only fair. Likewise, the CTX VL950 ($799) scored in the top five for both our screen-to-screen comparisons and overall ratings, with

Cumulative Hours Gained

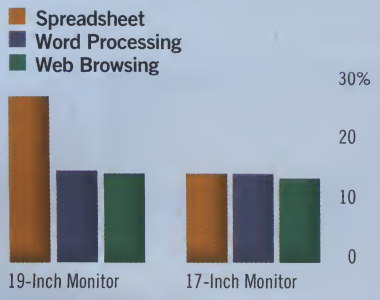
Show Time: Give that 15-inch monitor the boot. A 19-inch replacement earns you back 204 hours or $4,900 annually.

MONROI.XLS at our Web site, www.pccomputing.com.)

Our ROI analysis reveals that a 19-inch monitor can actually pay for itself within two months, compared with slightly less time needed to pay for a 17-inch model. While the payback time is a bit longer for 19-inch monitors, they ultimately yield a bigger return on your investment because you can get work done faster than on a 17-incher. The biggest single gain? Spreadsheet work gets done a whopping 27 percent faster than with a 15-inch monitor.

Big Bonus That kind of performance translates into a monthly time savings of 17 hours, or 204 hours annually. That's a bonus of almost $5,000—money you forfeit by sticking with a 15-inch display. By contrast, upgrading from a 15-inch display to a 17-inch model saves 156 hours per year, with a payback of $3,915.

Display Boost



NOTE: PRODUCTIVITY GAINS REFLECT THE TIME SAVED WHEN PERFORMING COMMON BUSINESS TASKS.

Number Cruncher: A 19-inch monitor speeds up spreadsheet work the most, while your overall productivity jumps a healthy 17 percent.

consistently good ratings for color, image, and text quality. Nokia's 446Xpro ($899) finished a notch below the CTX monitor, but still posted good scores in each category. And the Nokia monitor tied for fifth place in our head-to-head showdown. And all three monitors are priced to move—as in moving your 15-inch monitor to someone else's desk to make way for your new 19-inch display.

Name Game You'll find another big name worth considering, too, especially if 19-inch monitor prices keep falling. Philips' Brilliance 109 ($1,049) tied for third place with the CTX VL950 in our overall rankings, with very good color and image quality, plus unsurpassed text clarity. But the Philips display received notably bad reviews for its controls: Testers described them as confusing and obscure.

The middle of this 19-inch pack, while not outstanding, showcases some pretty good monitors. TeleVideo's SuperView Pro SVP300 ($819) and Cornerstone's Color 45/101sf ($925) each landed right in the middle of our head-to-head and overall rankings, with no glaring weaknesses. The SuperView Pro's color and image quality were slightly better than the Color 45/101sf's, but the Color 45/101sf tied the Brilliance 109 for the sharpest text display of the entire group. CyberVision's C92 ($685) had very good image-quality scores—better overall than those of the Cornerstone and TeleVideo displays—and sports a rock-bottom price, but delivered only lukewarm colors and fair text. None of the three had very good controls.

Two other familiar names in displays produced respectable performance across our tests. Princeton

Budget Conscious: Our value pick is the CTX VL950. For $799, this well-rounded contender offers good color, image, and text quality.

Graphic System's EO90 ($749), in fact, showed some of the best image quality in this group, tying for fourth place in that category. But our testers ranked it near the bottom because of its mediocre color quality and text display. Eizo Nanao's FlexScan FX-D7 ($1,079) was a steady performer, with solid image and text scores.

Not Picture-perfect Two of our 13 models clearly didn't make the grade in this visually demanding field. Sampo's Alpha Scan 810 ($689) fared well in our 16-million-color image test, but was below par in every other respect. Mag InnoVision's DJ800 ($800) didn't manage any highs, just a series of fair to disappointing scores across the board.

But there are more good choices than ever in this roundup, and the sheer number of new 19-inch monitors means there are plenty of bargains for you to choose from. So there's no need to grin and bear it with a smaller monitor any longer.

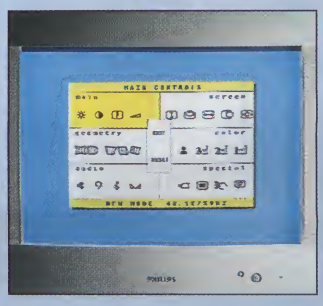
Take Control

19-Inch Monitor Usability Highlights

To really take advantage of a 19-inch display's color and resolution settings, you'll need to make a few adjustments. Our testers found that some displays make it much easier than others.

Best Buttons: Testers liked the Sony Multiscan GDM-400PS's foolproof controls, including its zoom function.

Full Circle: The retro-feel knobs on the Nokia 446Xpro received mixed reviews from our testers.



Too Much: The Philips Brilliance 109's confusing onscreen controls overwhelmed testers.

Double Trouble: The Princeton EO90 and Sampo AlphaScan 810 sport the same complicated controls.

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Infolink 318 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Top 19-Inch Displays

PRODUCT*	Price**	Tube	Dot Pitch	Max. Resolution/ Refresh Rate	Pros	Cons	Verdict
PC Computing BEST **Sony Electronics Multiscan GDM-400PS** (800) 352-7669 *InfoLink No. 645*	$1,200	Trinitron	0.25mm to 0.27mm	1,600 by 1,200 at 75Hz	Stunning color and image quality; best picture of the lot; intuitive and innovative controls.	High price; text quality good, not great.	★★★★★ King of the 19-inch monitors, for a royal sum.
Cornerstone Color 45/101sf (800) 562-2552 *InfoLink No. 651*	$925	Invar shadow mask	0.26mm	1,600 by 1,280 at 76Hz	Good color and overall image quality; excellent text quality.	Relatively high price; complicated controls.	★★★★ You'll be pleased with its looks and its price.
CTX Int'l VL950 (800) 888-9052 *InfoLink No. 646*	$799	Flat-square	0.26mm	1,600 by 1,200 at 75Hz	Consistently good color, image, and text quality; low price.	Complicated controls.	★★★★ The one to buy if you're on a budget.
Iiyama VisionMaster 450 (800) 594-7480 *InfoLink No. 647*	$899	Invar shadow mask FST	0.26mm	1,600 by 1,200 at 80Hz	Photorealistic images; good color quality; moderate price; easy-to-use, straightforward controls.	Text quality good but not great.	★★★★ Get this close second to the Sony Multiscan and save $300.
Nokia Display Products 446Xpro (800) 296-6542 *InfoLink No. 648*	$899	Invar shadow mask	0.21mm	1,600 by 1,280 at 80Hz	Very good text and color quality; reasonable price.	Good but not great image quality.	★★★★ A quality display for a competitive price.
Philips Electronics Brilliance 109 (800) 835-3506 *InfoLink No. 649*	$1,049	Invar shadow mask	0.22mm to 0.28mm	1,600 by 1,280 at 71Hz	Very good color and image quality; unsurpassed text clarity.	High price; overwhelming controls.	★★★★ You pay a high price for its razor-sharp text.
ViewSonic Corp. G790 (800) 888-8583 *InfoLink No. 650*	$899	Invar shadow mask	0.26mm	1,600 by 1,280 at 71Hz	Good color and overall image quality; reasonable price; intuitive controls; highest refresh rate at maximum resolution.	So-so text display.	★★★★ A good monitor at a good price.
CyberVision C92 (888) 572-9237 *InfoLink No. 652*	$685	Flat-square	0.26mm	1,600 by 1,200 at 68Hz	Good overall image quality; exceptionally low price.	Fair color and text quality; low refresh rate at maximum resolution; poor controls.	★★★ The choice for tight budgets.
Eizo Nanao Technologies FlexScan FX-D7 (800) 800-5202 *InfoLink No. 653*	$1,079	Invar shadow mask	0.26mm	1,600 by 1,200 at 76Hz	Crisp text and good images.	High price; only fair color quality; confusing controls.	★★★ A solid display, but pricey.

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.PCCOMPUTING.COM/INFOLINK. **ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

continued on page 222

PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE
December 2, 1997
STB Velocity 128

MVP 1997 PCComputing WINNER

1997 PC GAMES A-List

★★★★★ ComputerLife

"A screaming-fast 3-D game board with stunning 2-D performance, too...We'll take it!" PC Computing, 12.97

VELOCITY 128

MULTIMEDIA ACCELERATOR

"The best available today...A terrific all-around performer and a good value." PC Magazine, 11.97

PCComputing THE A LIST

GAMEWORTHY cnet www.gamecenter.com

PC WORLD TOP 10 Accelerators

CG CHOICE

PCComputing ★★★★★

"If you have one of these puppies, count yourself lucky." "...you needn't look any further." Computer Gaming, 11.97/01.98

3D WinBench '98 Performance†

VELOCITY 128	670
3D Blaster Voodoo2	656
Viper V330	530
XPERT@Play	444
70 Millennium II	

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Top 19-Inch Displays

continued from page 220

PRODUCT*	Price**	Tube	Dot Pitch	Max. Resolution/ Refresh Rate	Pros	Cons	Verdict
Princeton Graphic Systems EO90 (800) 747-6249 *InfoLink No. 654*	$749	Invar shadow mask	0.26mm	1,600 by 1,200 at 75Hz	Very good image quality; good price.	Mediocre color quality and text clarity; difficult controls.	★★★ Best suited to imaging applications.
TeleVideo SuperView Pro SVP300 (800) 835-3228 *InfoLink No. 655*	$819	Invar shadow mask	0.26mm	1,600 by 1,200 at 75Hz	Good color and image quality; great price.	Fair text quality; poor controls.	★★★ A middle-of-the-pack performer.
Mag InnoVision DJ800 (800) 827-3998 *InfoLink No. 656*	$800	High-contrast FST	0.22mm to 0.26mm	1,600 by 1,200 at 75Hz	Intuitive controls; only monitor with a USB hub; nice price.	Below average in text, color, and image quality.	★★ If only the picture were as nice as the package.
Sampo Technology AlphaScan 810 (888) 321-4100 *InfoLink No. 657*	$689	Invar shadow mask	0.22mm to 0.26mm	1,600 by 1,200 at 75Hz	Excellent price; decent color.	Below-par color and text quality; confusing controls.	★★ Great price but image quality suffers.

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.PCCOMPUTING.COM/INFOLINK. **ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Big and Flat

Large-Screen Plasma Displays

A 19-inch monitor seems spacious for your Windows applications, compared with its 17-inch counterparts. But what if you need a *really* big view? The latest jumbo plasma monitors create a picture window into your presentations, video, and even games.

Starting with 40 inches of viewable screen space, plasma monitors are hardly a desktop tool—unless your desktop happens to be the size of Texas. And at upwards of $10,000, they're not really a financial alternative to any CRT monitor. But plasma screens and 19-inch monitors do have one thing in common: They both make the most of the space they occupy. A 19-inch display gives you more viewing space with the same footprint as a 17-inch monitor. A 42-inch plasma monitor hanging on your wall offers a huge workspace and true wide-screen resolution—on a screen that's just over 5 inches deep.

Big Players The plasma market is just beginning to heat up, and right now there are only a few major players. Fujitsu General America leads the pack with its successful Plasmavision 42 display. The company is back with a second-generation model, the Plasmavision 42EP. Like its predecessor, this slick 42-inch flat-panel offers a true wide-angle 16:9 aspect ratio, thanks to a special graphic accelerator. But the new Plasmavision 42EP sweetens the deal with a higher contrast ratio (400:1, as opposed to 70:1 in the original monitor) and a component video input that makes it a natural for home theater use. And Fujitsu brings it all in at $11,000, which is significantly lower than the original's $14,000 price tag.

NEC hopes to crack the $10,000 plasma price barrier when it enters the large-display game later this year with its own 42-inch contender. And Mitsubishi has plans for a 40-inch screen, called Leonardo, which should be the first XGA-resolution screen on the market. It is expected to be in the $10,000 range as well. JULIE POLITO

Texas-Size View: Plasma displays like the Fujitsu Plasmavision 42 or the new Plasmavision 42EP give you plenty of room for presentations.

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The Right Size

That small monitor sitting on your desk is slowing you down. Trade up your 14- or 15-inch display for more room to work and get an unexpected bonus: more time and money.

It's easier than ever before to buy a bigger screen, thanks to the new 19-inch displays. These big screens give you almost as much space as a 20-inch model but take up about the same desktop real estate as a 17-inch monitor. Best of all, they're priced lower than you'd think: about $200 more than a 17-inch display. Don't be left behind: 19-inch monitors are about to become the new standard for business computing.

And they should be, as our usability tests and ROI analysis prove. When you upgrade to a 19-inch monitor, you boost your productivity by 17 percent overall. You turbocharge your spreadsheet work by 27 percent and rev up Web surfing by 13 percent. With the valuable time you save, you'll pay for that 19-inch monitor in less than two months.

Choosing a 19-inch monitor is a challenge, with all the choices already available. But our extensive jury testing of 13 models makes one thing crystal-clear: Sony's Multiscan GDM-400PS is at the head of this class. Its vivid colors and stunning images outshine the competition, leaving only one question: How much is that worth to you? At about $1,200, the Sony monitor is $300 to $400 more expensive than most of the other 19-inchers.

If you're looking for a better deal, though, you're in luck. The 19-inch monitors from Iiyama, Nokia, ViewSonic, and CTX are each impressive in their own right, with superior (though not quite up to Sony's) color and image quality. And you'll save as much as $400. But we recommend seeing what you'd be missing, by first eyeballing the Sony Multiscan and then doing the same with these worthy runners-up. Also consider the 19-inch contender from Philips, a fine display which is priced over $1,000.

CHRIS O'MALLEY *is a freelance writer specializing in digital imaging. Lab testing was performed by* LULIT BEZUAYEHU *and* ANDRÉ LEACH.

DECISION MAKER — CHOOSE THE RIGHT 19-INCH MONITOR FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best monitor to buy is . . .
Image Quality	Usability	Color Quality	Sony Multiscan GDM-400PS
		Text Quality	Philips Electronics Brilliance 109
	Price	Color Quality	Iiyama VisionMaster 450
		Text Quality	CTX VL950
Usability	Image Quality	Color Quality	Sony Multiscan GDM-400PS
		Text Quality	Sony Multiscan GDM-400PS
	Price	Color Quality	Iiyama VisionMaster 450
		Text Quality	ViewSonic G790
Price	Image Quality	Color Quality	Iiyama VisionMaster 450
		Text Quality	CTX VL950
	Usability	Color Quality	Iiyama VisionMaster 450
		Text Quality	ViewSonic G790

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233MHz INTEL PENTIUM® MMX

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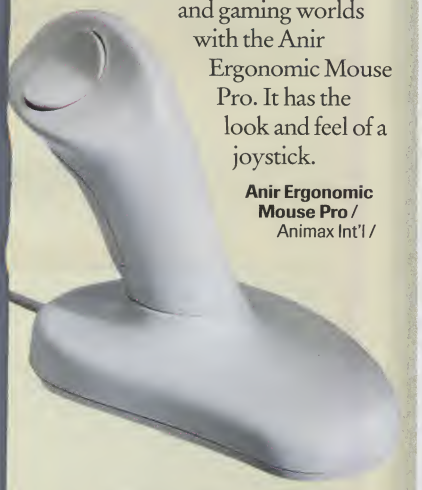

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Vacation Gadgets

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Nice weather is here—time to escape the office and head out on the road for some well-deserved R&R. But before you pull out of the driveway, make sure you've packed these goodies to make your vacation perfect. . . .

Turbo Travel Agent The Web is great for finding deals on airfare, but who has time to bargain-surf? Download the IntelliTrip browser plug-in and let it do the searching for you. IntelliTrip, from TheTrip.com, scans top travel-booking sites, such as Microsoft's Expedia, and then indexes and summarizes the results. Consult TheTrip.com's site (www.thetrip.com) for additional travel information such as hotel and car reservations, travel guides, weather reports, and real-time radar flight tracking (free; www.intellitrip.com). . . .

Never Get Lost Maps are frustrating. They're hard to read, not always up-to-date, and difficult to fold. Plot your journey electronically with Rand McNally StreetFinder Deluxe 98 and TripMaker Deluxe 98. Both are jam-packed with travel maps, directions, and multimedia features to help you make the most of your trip. Web integration gives you instant access to all kinds of travel and business services. You can even use them with a GPS ($45 each, est. street price; 800-671-5006). . . .

Digital Navigator TravRoute's Door-to-Door CoPilot 98 global positioning system (right) not only tells you where to go with voice capability, but alerts you where not to go. The 1998 version gives you construction warnings, plus alternate routes if you need them. It also gives you real-time traffic reports via the TravRoute Web site—all you need is a cellular modem ($299 est. street price; 888-872-8768). . . .

You Are Here: TravRoute's Door-to-Door CoPilot 98 steers you around construction and traffic.

Free Movies Tired of skimming the airline catalogs? DVD movies would be much better for those cross-country flights. But even if you have a DVD notebook, the playback quality leaves much to be desired. Margi's DVD-to-Go—a PC Card device that boosts video to 30 fps and decodes Dolby Digital soundtracks—has the answer. When you want to play it at home, just plug your DVD laptop into your home theater setup ($349 est. street price; 888-656-2744).

LIESL LA GRANGE NOBLE

Enter InfoLink numbers at www.pccomputing.com/infolink: IntelliTrip, *750*; StreetFinder Deluxe, *751*; TripMaker Deluxe, *752*; Door-to-Door CoPilot 98, *753*; DVD-to-Go, *754*.

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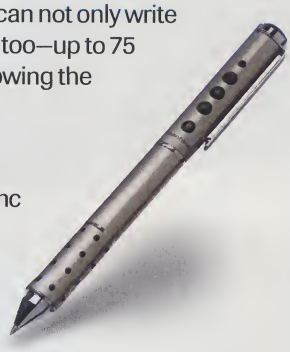

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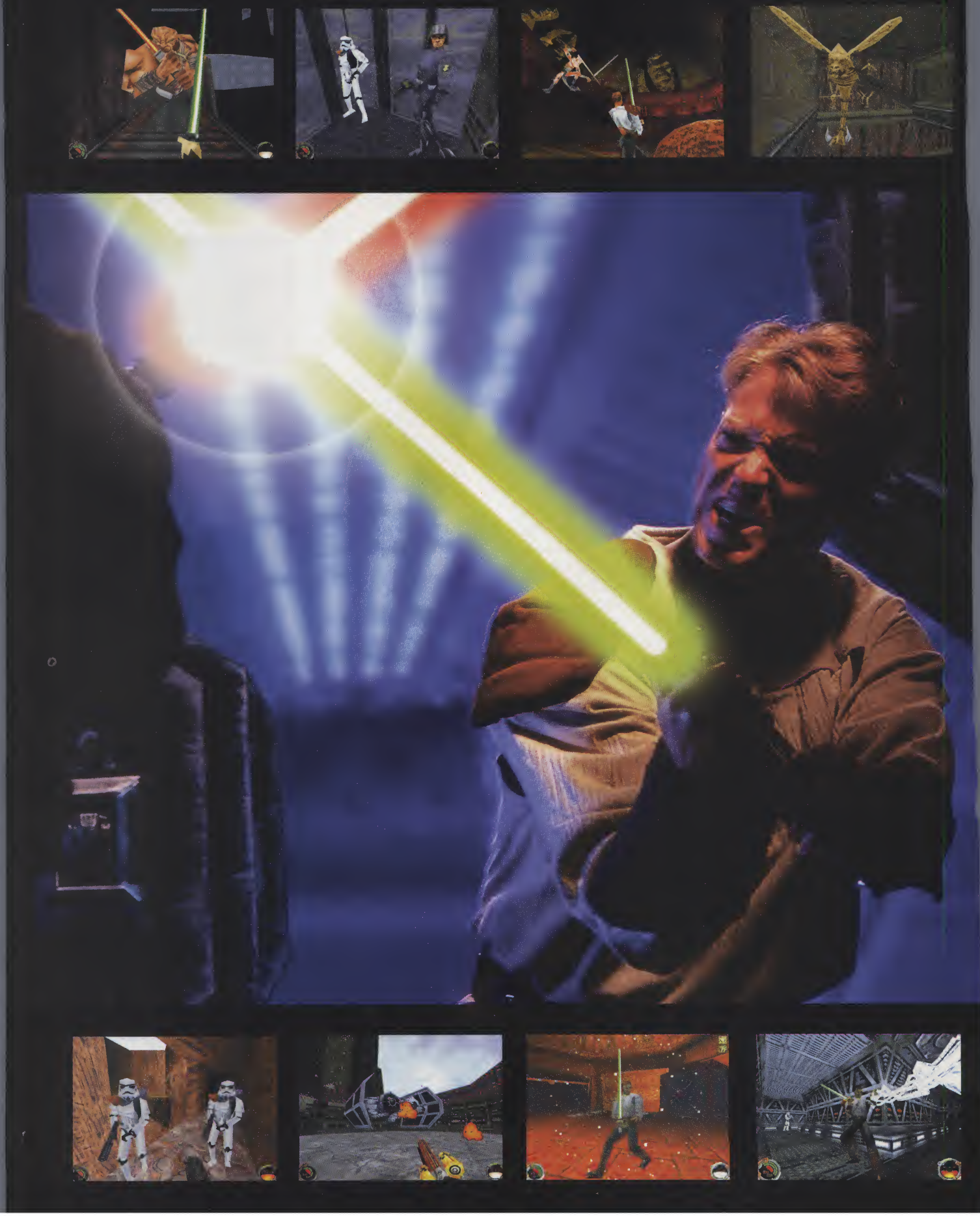

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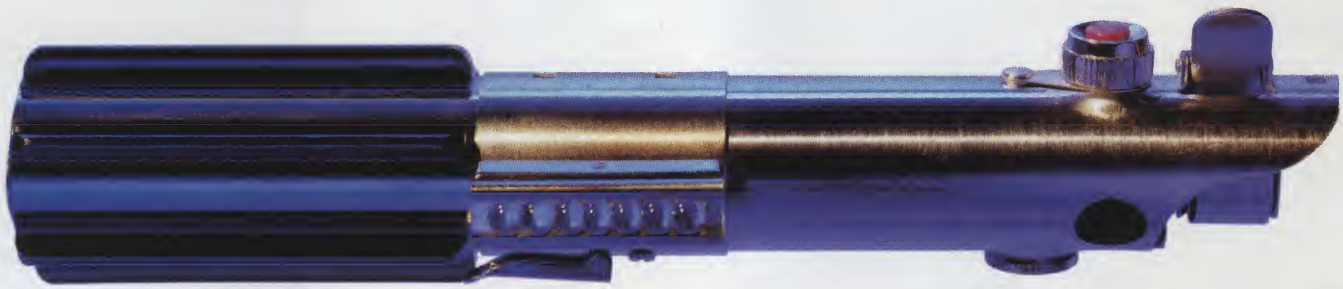

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Quick Color Copies

Flatbed scanners aren't just for the art department anymore. They're a fast and easy way for anyone to bring images and information to their onscreen projects. If you priced flatbed scanners several years ago, you're in for a pleasant surprise. Models that cost as little $150 scan at resolutions and color depths once reserved for machines costing $1,000 or more. Low-cost scanners also come with generous software bundles that pack several programs on a single CD-ROM.

Best Overall: The PaperPort 6000 offers low price, high resolution, and easy installation.

PaperPort 6000 / Visioneer / (800) 787-7007 / $199 est. street price / *Enter 756 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

And thanks to Windows 95 Plug and Play, it's a breeze to set up most of the latest scanners—no more hair-pulling struggles with SCSI terminator settings or other technical arcana. Plus you'll find several scanners that hook up to the PC's parallel (printer) port.

Smooth Scanning

Visioneer's PaperPort 6000 offers the best combination of low price, ease of installation, and high scanning resolution. This $199 scanner is affordable and friendly. Not only that, but the PaperPort 6000 offers an impressive 600-by-1,200-dpi optical scanning resolution. Using software interpolation, a process in which a scanning program boosts image resolution by guessing the content of the missing pixels, the PaperPort scans as high as 2,400 dpi.

However, for many SOHO users, usability is more important than killer resolution. The PaperPort 6000 quickly connected to our test system's parallel port, and its drivers installed without a hitch. PaperPort's document management software is excellent for organizing scanned images.

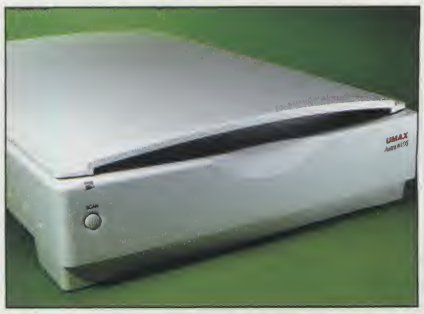
Like all the scanners in this roundup, the PaperPort 6000 doesn't scan legal-size (8-by-14 inches) documents. Nor is it the fastest scanner we tested. The PaperPort took 67 seconds to scan a magazine illustration at 150 dpi—not a speed record by any stretch. Overall, however, the PaperPort 6000's thoughtful design, low price, and good software bundle make it an excellent choice.

Premium Price: The ScanJet 5100C makes scanning a breeze, but it costs a bit more too.

ScanJet 5100C / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 722-6538 / $299 est. street price

Well-Built Had it been a bit less pricey, the Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 5100C would have been closer to the top of the heap. Not only does this scanner have a great setup guide, it was also the fastest scanner we tested (along with the Umax Astra 610S). But at $299, it's $100 more than the PaperPort 6000 and has a lower optical resolution of 300-by-600-dpi (1,200 dpi interpolated). For the additional bucks, we'd expect some extras, like the ability to scan legal-size documents.

That said, we truly liked the ScanJet 5100C. It was the only scanner to include a colorful, box-top setup guide, and its software drivers installed automatically once we connected the hardware and rebooted our test PC. And while parallel-port scanners are often slower than their SCSI counterparts, the 5100C scanned our 150-dpi test image in a mere 38 seconds. We also liked the 5100C's handy Scan button on the front of the unit. Furthermore, the software bundle, which includes Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 and Caere PageKeeper Lite for document management, is good. Bottom line? The ScanJet 5100C is an excellent scanner—but too expensive.



Superspeedy: The Astra 610S has a great price and fast performance, but you need to install a SCSI card to use it.

Astra 610S / Umax Technologies / (800) 562-0311 / $149 est. street price / *Enter 757 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

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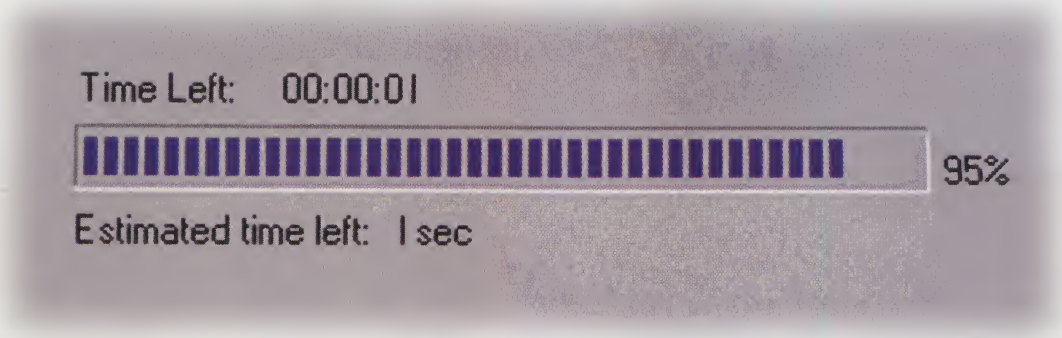

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Infolink 365 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Sneak Preview: The SnapScan 310's preview feature is fast, but its scanning speed isn't.

SnapScan 310 / Agfa / (800) 685-4271 / $199 est. street price / *Enter 758 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Fast Track If you prefer a SCSI-based scanner, check out the Umax Astra 610S. This affordable ($149) model offers 300-by-600-dpi optical scanning or 4,800 dpi with software interpolation. It's fast too, tying the ScanJet at 38 seconds in scanning our test image. However, the Umax Copy Utility software took more than 3 minutes to scan and print out a standard 8-by-11-inch document.

Although you need to install an included SCSI card to set up the Astra, the process went smoothly. Like the ScanJet, the Astra features a Scan button, but with less-effective results—we couldn't get this feature to work. The software bundle, which includes Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 and Presto PageManager, is solid for most SOHO needs. Despite a few glitches, the Umax Astra 610S is a fast, low-cost scanner.

Quick Preview The second SCSI-based scanner we tested, the Agfa SnapScan 310, matches the Astra 610's specs: 300-by 600-dpi optical resolution and 4,800-dpi interpolated. However, the $199 SnapScan 310 costs more than the Astra and the same as the PaperPort 6000—and its performance is a mixed bag. On the plus side, the SnapScan had the fastest preview speed of any scanner we tested. Unfortunately, it took a leisurely 82 seconds to scan our 150-dpi image.

The hardware setup, which included the installation of a SCSI card, was seamless. The software setup, however, proved troublesome. Since the installation program didn't automatically load all the required files, we had to run it twice to complete the job. We liked the software bundle, though, which includes Ulead iPhoto Express, Visioneer PaperPort, and Caere OmniPage Limited Edition. The SnapScan 310 is a decent scanner, but you'll find better models for less money.

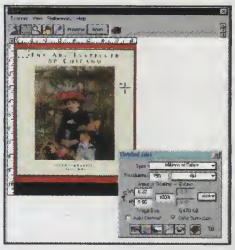
Sticky Setup: The ScanMaker X6 gave us some setup grief, but it offers a high resolution for a low price.

ScanMaker X6 / Microtek Lab / (800) 654-4160 / $179 est. street price / *Enter 759 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

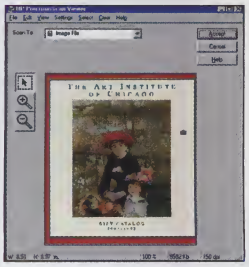
SIDE BY SIDE FLATBED SCANNERS

Even the least expensive flatbed scanner comes with a generous supply of software. Typically you'll find an image editor, an OCR program, and a document manager. And since most of the bundled apps are TWAIN-compliant, you can scan directly into these programs.

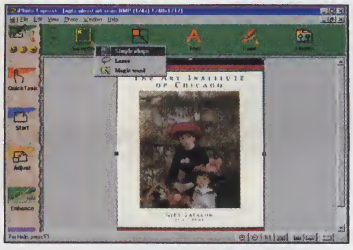
Visioneer PaperPort 6000: The PaperPort software is easy to use, letting you organize documents and images in convenient stacks.



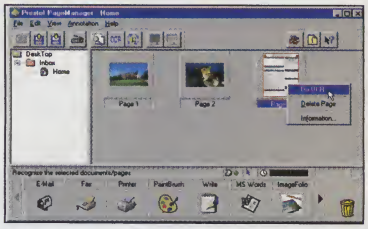
Microtek ScanMaker X6: The ScanMaker software's Preview screen displays convenient scanning information.



HP ScanJet 5100C: The PrecisionScan software makes it easy to start. Press the 5100C's Scan button and PrecisionScan loads.



Agfa SnapScan 310: Ulead's iPhoto Express is a simple image editor for making quick and dirty changes to scanned photos and art.



Umax Astra 610S: The Presto PageManager is similar to the PaperPort in the way it provides visual thumbnail images of your scans.

Flatbed Scanners

	Agfa SnapScan 310	Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 5100C	Microtek ScanMaker X6	Umax Astra 610S	Visioneer PaperPort 6000
Highest Optical Resolution (dpi)	300 by 600	300 by 600	600 by 1,200	300 by 600	600 by 1,200
Interface Type	SCSI	Parallel port	Parallel port	SCSI	Parallel port
Scanning Time (150-dpi file)	82 seconds	38 seconds	79 seconds	38 seconds	67 seconds
Interpolated Resolution (dpi)	4,800	1,200	9,600	4,800	2,400

Slow Start Surprisingly, the scanner that gave us the most setup grief was a parallel-port model—the Microtek ScanMaker X6. It wouldn't install on our first test system, a 200MHz Pentium PC, but later installed successfully on our 266MHz Pentium notebook. Once setup was complete, the ScanMaker X6 ran well but scanned our test image in 79 seconds.

The good news is that the $179 ScanMaker X6 delivers an impressive 600-by-1,200-dpi optical resolution. It also comes with plenty of software, including MetaCreations Kai's Photo Soap and DocuMagix PaperMaster SEC. While we liked the ScanMaker X6's low price and great resolution, it had too many installation headaches.

Keep It Simple The last thing small-business users need is another complex piece of hardware. And that's why the supersimple Visioneer PaperPort 6000 is our top pick. The HP ScanJet 5100C also wins usability kudos, but comes at a steep price. The SCSI-based, low-cost Umax Astra 610S is a fine choice if you can't compromise speed, and the Agfa SnapScan 310 has a speedy preview feature. The Microtek ScanMaker X6 has good resolution and great software, but it's a bear to install. JEFF BERTOLUCCI

DECISION MAKER

WHICH **FLATBED SCANNER** IS FOR YOU?

Lab notes

Our SOHO usability lab installed each flatbed scanner on a 200MHz Pentium desktop PC with 32MB of RAM. One scanner, the Microtek ScanMaker X6, was installed on a 266MHz Pentium notebook with 64MB of RAM (the ScanMaker wouldn't install properly on our desktop PC). All of the scanners were set up according to the manufacturer's instructions, and then each product was rated on ease of installation. Testers noted whether the scanner included the necessary hardware add-in cards and cables and if its software drivers installed automatically without any glitches.

Testers then loaded the accompanying software and scanned a variety of documents—a newsletter, news releases, and color photos and illustrations—at a variety of settings. Testers compared the quality of the scanned images and timed the scanning speed of each device. In addition, testers installed and checked the bundled applications to see how well each program integrated with basic scanning functions.

Finally, our testers searched for specific hardware features, such as an easily accessible, one-step button to initiate scans, and a printer connector on the parallel-port models.

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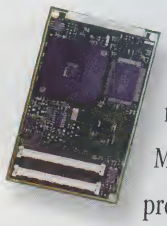

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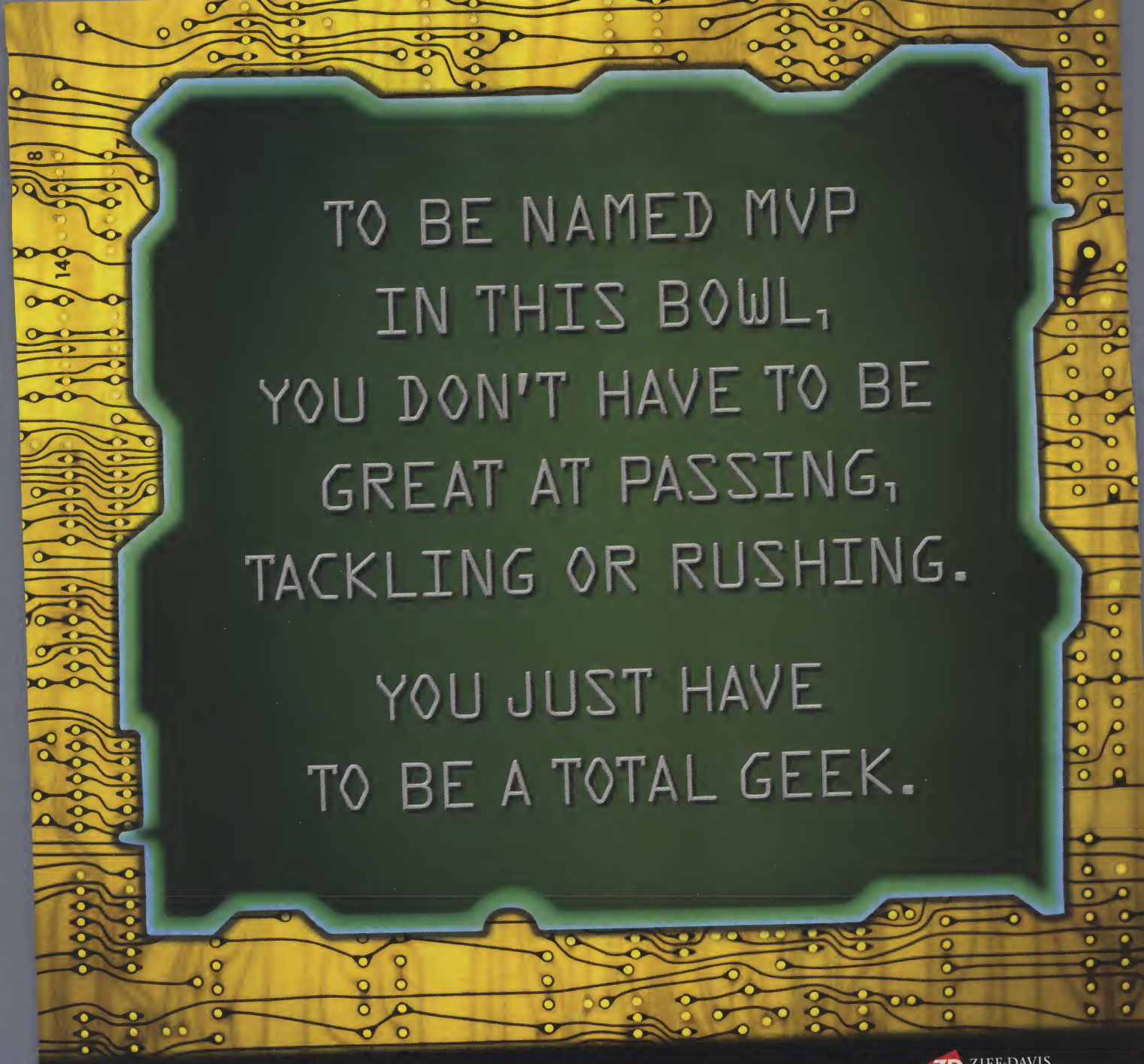

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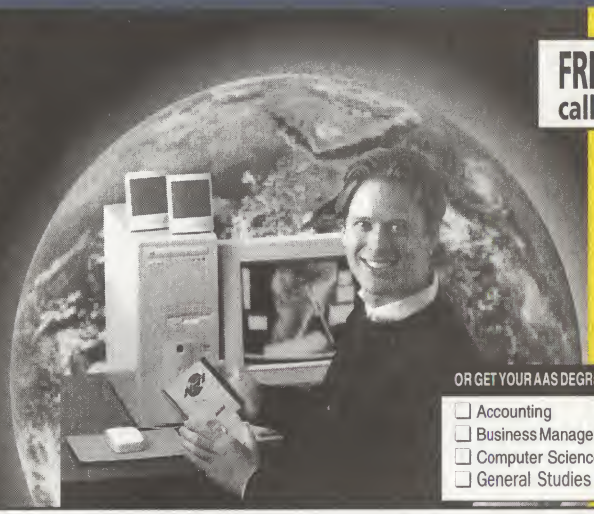

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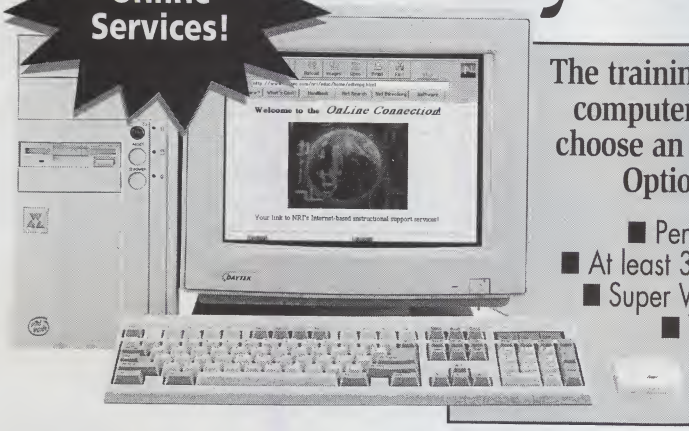

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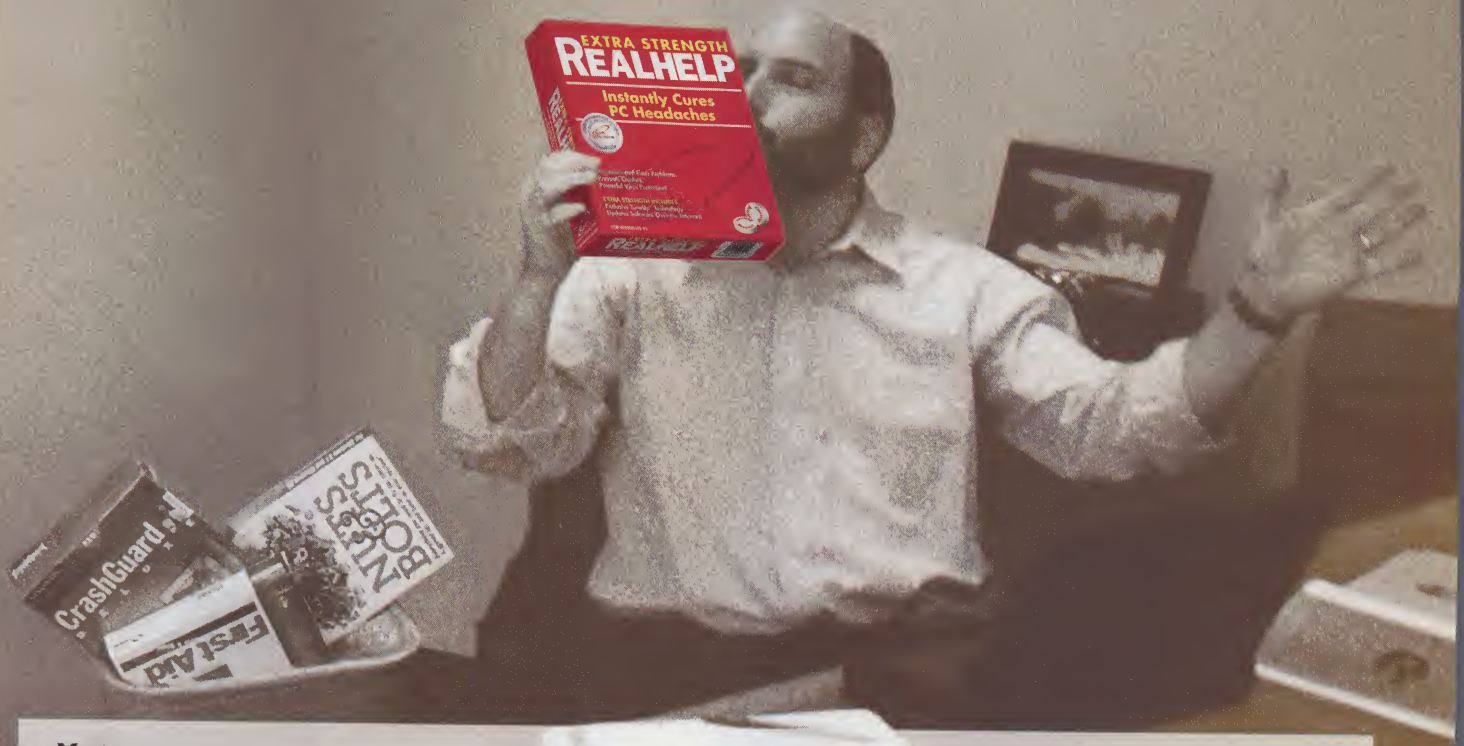

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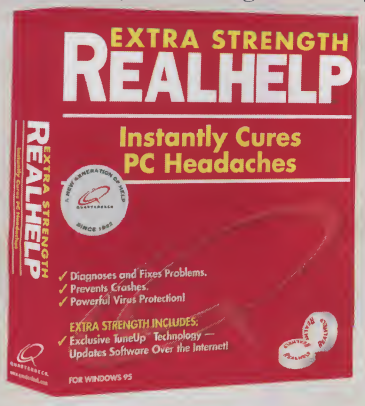

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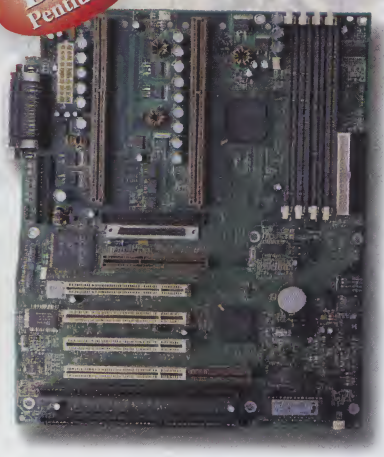

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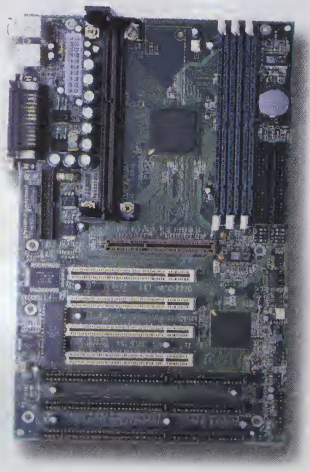

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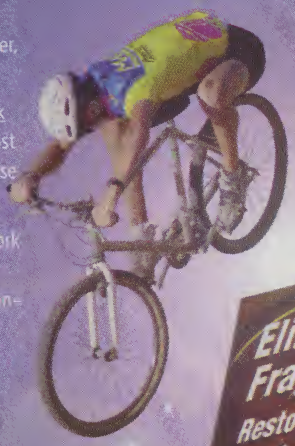

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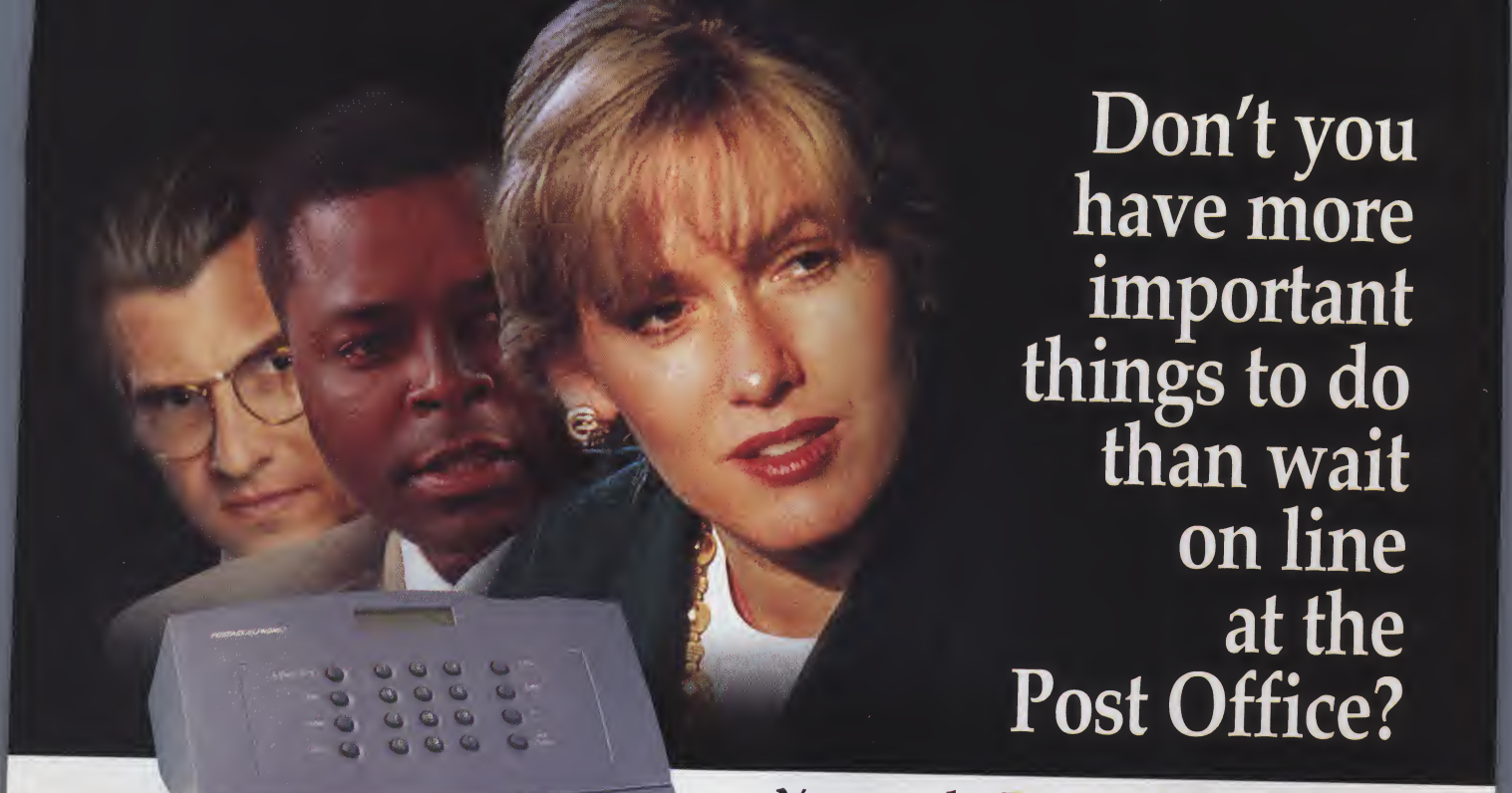

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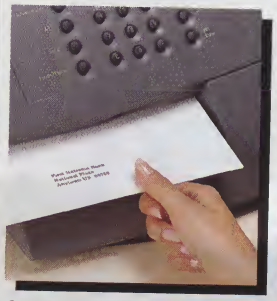

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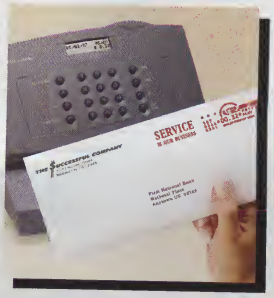

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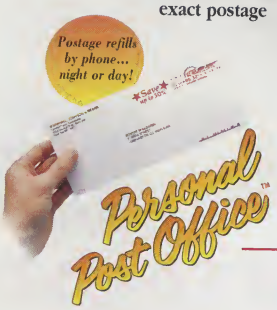

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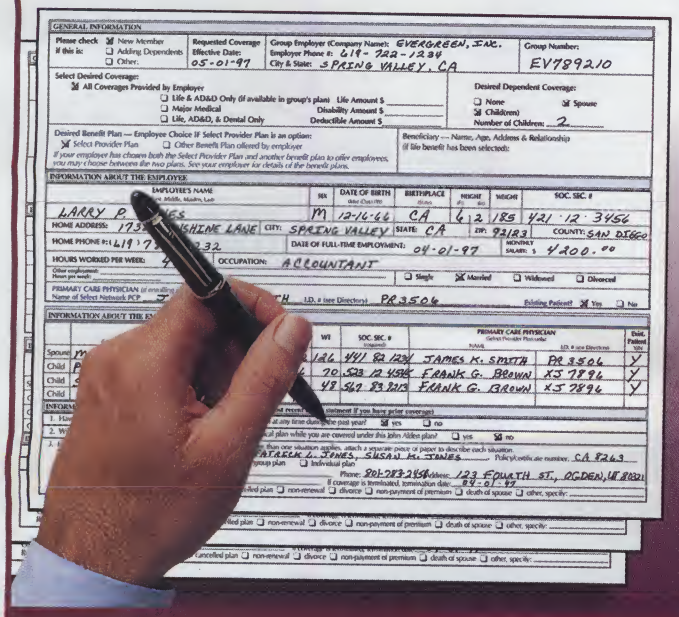

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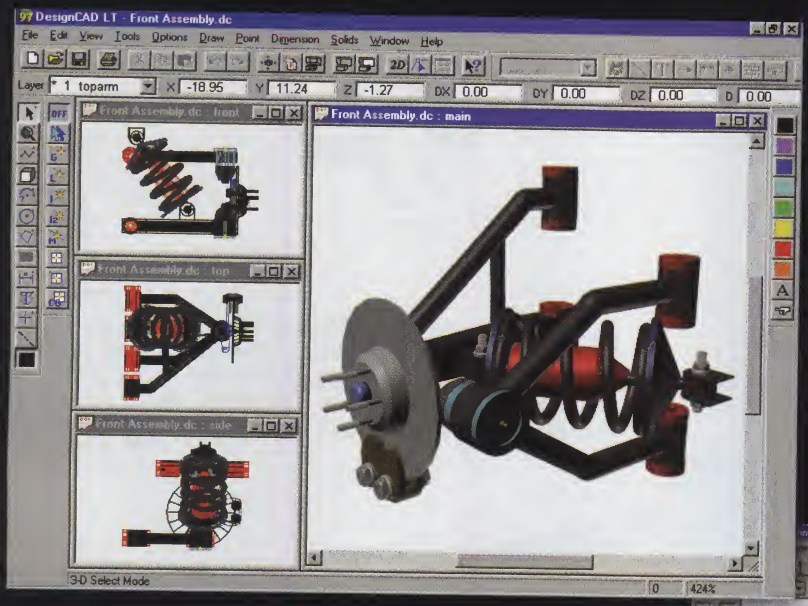

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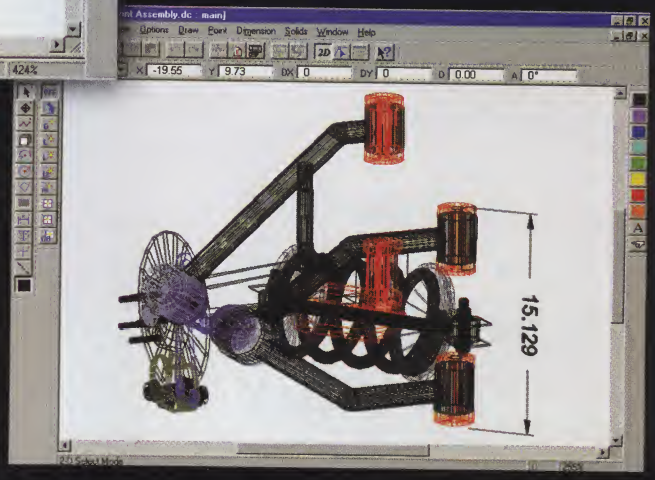

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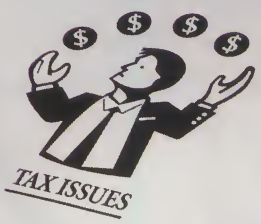

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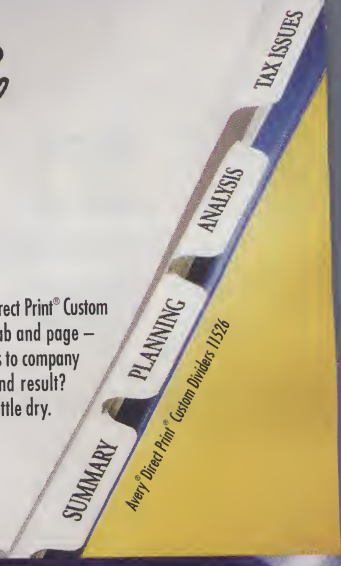

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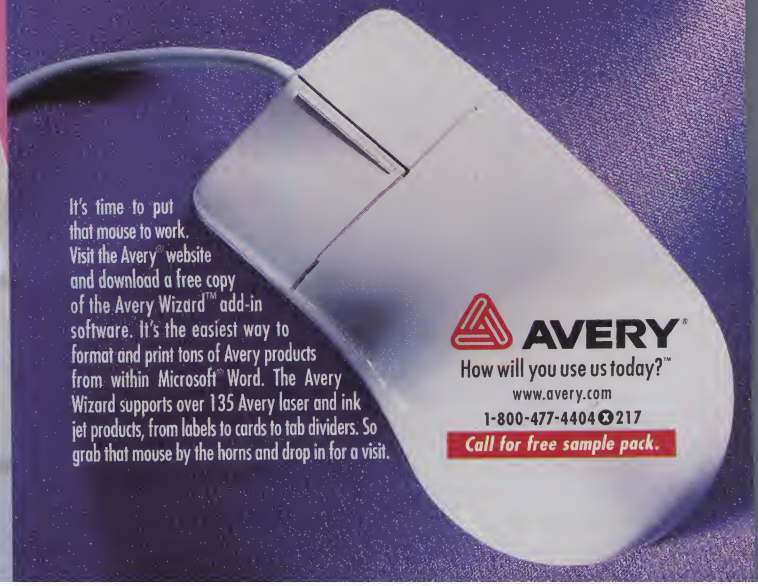

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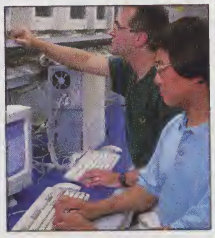

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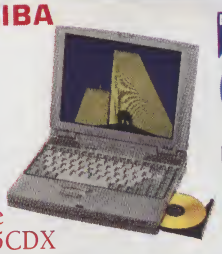

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#94064	1550DM	133MHz	16	1.4GB	10X	12.1" TFT	$2,149
#14708	1540DM	150MHz MMX™	16	2.1GB	20X	12.1" CSTN	$2,199
#26785	1560DM	166MHz MMX™	16	3.1GB	20X	12.1" CSTN	$2,449
#97388	1580DMT	133MHz MMX™	16	2.1GB	10X	12.1" TFT	$2,699
#14710	1590DMT	166MHz MMX™	16	2.1GB	20X	12.1" TFT	$3,199
#26786	1592DMT	233MHz MMX™	32	3.1GB	20X	12.1" TFT	$3,799
Armada 4100/4200 Series							
#26783	4210T	233MHz MMX	32	3.0GB	—	12.1" TFT	$3,399
#26784	4220T	266MHz MMX	32	4.0GB	—	12.1" TFT	$3,899
NEW Armada 7300 Series							
#99535	7330MT	150MHz MMX™	16	2.1GB	—	12.1" TFT	$1,849
#99536	7350MT	166MHz MMX™	32	2.1GB	—	12.1" TFT	$3,349
#24711	7360DMT	200MHz MMX™	32	3.0GB	20X	12.1" TFT	$3,799
#24712	7370DMT	233MHz MMX™	32	4.0GB	20X	12.1" TFT	$4,599
#26787	7380DMT	266MHz MMX™	32	4.0GB	20X	12.1" TFT	$4,899
#26788	7380DMT	266MHz MMX™	32	4.0GB	20X	12.1" TFT	$4,999
Armada 7700 Series							
#94060	7710MT	150MHz MMX™	16	1.6GB	—	12.1" TFT	$1,949
#94062	7730MT	166MHz MMX™	32	2.1GB	—	12.1" TFT	$3,349
#94046	7750MT	166MHz MMX™	32	2.1GB	—	12.1" TFT	$3,549
#24713	7790DMT	233MHz MMX™	32	5.0GB	20X	13.3" TFT	$4,799
#23932	7770DMT	233MHz MMX™	32	3.0GB	20X	12.1" TFT	$4,999
#26790	7792DMT	266MHz MMX™	32	5GB	20X	13.3" TFT	$5,549
#26789	7792DMT	266MHz MMX™	32	5GB	20X	13.3" TFT	$5,649

*Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology.

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- 24X CD-ROM (Selected models)

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#27302	D5606N	200 MMX*	32	3.2GB	—	—	$1,129
#27304	D5612A	233 MMX*	16	2.1GB	—	—	$1,059
#27314	D5616N	233 MMX*	32	3.2GB	—	—	$1,239
#27308	D5613A	233 MMX*	16	2.1GB	—	10/100	$1,129
#27311	D5614A	233 MMX*	32	2.1GB	24X	—	$1,289

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Order#	Model	Processor*	RAM	HD	CD	Modem	Price
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#99512	8014	200MHz MMX	16MB	2.1GB	—	—	$869
#99513	8017	233MHz MMX	32MB	3.2GB	—	—	$1,079
Advanced Business Models							
#99514	8032	166MHz MMX	16MB	2.1GB	16X	—	$1,019
#99515	8034	200MHz MMX	32MB	2.1GB	16X	—	$1,189
#99483	8037	233MHz MMX	32MB	3.2GB	24X	—	$1,289
Advanced Business Communications Models							
#99484	8172	166MHz MMX	16MB	2.1GB	16X	56Kbps	$1,219
#99485	8174	200MHz MMX	32MB	2.1GB	24X	56Kbps	$1,299
#99486	8175†	200MHz MMX	32MB	2.1GB	24X	56Kbps	$1,389
#99487	8177	233MHz MMX	32MB	4.0GB	24X	56Kbps	$1,449
#99488	8178	233MHz MMX	32MB	6.0GB	24X	56Kbps	$1,659

*Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology. †Includes an HP CMS T3000 tape backup drive.

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Deskpro 2000 Series

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#97427	200MHz MMX™	32	3.2GB	16X	MT	$1,249
#97428	233MHz MMX™	32	3.2GB	16X	DT	$1,349
#14643	PII 233MHz MMX™	32	3.2GB	16X	DT	$1,499
#14641	PII 266MHz MMX™	32	3.2GB	16X	DT	$1,699
#14637	PII 300MHz MMX™	32	3.2GB	16X	MT	$1,999
Deskpro 4000N Series						
Built to NetPC Specifications						
#14695	166MHz MMX	32	1.6GB	—	DT	$949
#14693	200MHz MMX	32	1.6GB	—	DT	$999
#14691	233MHz MMX	32	2.1GB	—	DT	$1,149

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Network Ready PCs for Enterprise Environments

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#97441	166MHz MMX™	32	3.2GB	16X	MT	$1,399
#97442	200MHz MMX™	32	2.4GB	—	DT	$1,199
#14631	PII 233MHz	32	2.4GB	—	DT	$1,449
#97421	233MHz MMX™	32	3.2GB	16X	MT	$1,499
#14633	PII 233MHz	32	3.2GB	16X	MT	$1,649
#14627	PII 266MHz	32	3.2GB	16X	DT	$1,829
#14635	PII 266MHz	32	3.2GB	16X	MT	$1,849
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*Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology.

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#96203	628266U	200MMX*	32MB	2.5GB	16X	$1,169
#15126	628278U	200MMX	32MB	2.5GB	16X	$1,239
#15124	628286U	233MMX	32MB	2.5GB	—	$1,169
#27406	656113U	PII233	32MB	2.5GB	—	$1,249
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*Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology. † MiniTower Systems

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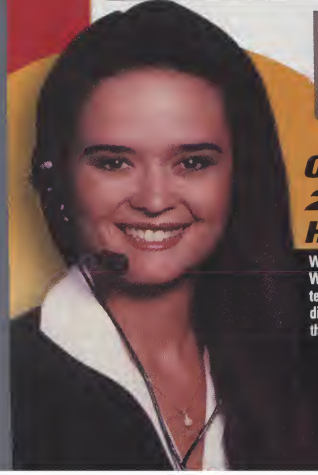

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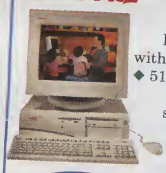
200/MMX 32MB 2.4GB....1187.58
200/MMX 32MB 3.2GB....1198.67
233/PII 32MB 2.4GB....1386.78
233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 16X....1439.77
233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 24X....1568.75
266/PII 32MB 3.2GB 24X....1755.57

Deskpro 2000

COMPAQ *Small Business Edition*



◆ 200MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology ◆ 512KB Level 2 cache ◆ 32MB SDRAM standard ◆ 2.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive ◆ 16X Max CD-ROM drive ◆ Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition

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Deskpro 4000 mini-towers
166/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 16X....1346.27
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266/PII 32MB 3.2GB 24X....1769.27

Deskpro 4000N Network PCs
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200/MMX 32MB 1.6GB....998.67
233/MMX 32MB 2.1GB....1118.67

Deskpro 4000S desktops
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200/MMX 16MB 2.1GB....996.48
233/MMX 32MB 2.1GB....1176.78

Deskpro 6000 desktops
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266/PII 32MB 2.1GB 24X....2085.27
266/PII 32MB 4.3GB 24X....2279.77
300/PII 64MB 4.3GB 24X....2689.87

Deskpro 6000 mini-towers
266/PII 64MB 4.3GB 24X....2486.67
300/PII 32MB 4.3GB 24X....2729.67

Presario desktops
200/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 20X....799.00
233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 20X....999.00
233/MMX 48MB 4GB 24X....1199.00
266/PII 48MB 4GB DVD....1699.00
300/PII 64MB 8GB DVD....1999.00
333/PII 64MB 8GB DVD....2399.00

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PC 300GL Series desktops
166/MMX 16MB 2.5GB....859.38
166/MMX 32MB 2.5GB....947.78
200/MMX 32MB 2.5GB....1027.87
200/MMX 32MB 2.5GB 16X....1155.67
233/MMX 32MB 2.5GB....1145.57
233/PII 16MB 2.5GB....1197.58
233/PII 32MB 2.5GB....1215.37
233/PII 32MB 4.2GB....1297.68
266/PII 32MB 2.5GB....1398.67
266/PII 32MB 4.2GB....1456.67
266/PII 32MB 4.2GB 32X....1598.37

PC 300PL Series desktops
200/MMX 32MB 2.5GB....1198.86
200/MMX 32MB 4.2GB....1245.27
200/MMX 32MB 4.2GB 24X....1368.46
233/MMX 32MB 4.2GB....1358.86
233/MMX 32MB 4.2GB 24X....1478.78

PC 300PL Series mini-towers
166/MMX 32MB 2.5GB....1155.48
200/MMX 32MB 4.2GB 24X....1398.78
233/MMX 32MB 4.3GB 24X....1889.47

PC 300XL Series desktops
233/PII 32MB 2.5GB....1699.75
233/PII 32MB 2.5GB 16X....1889.75
266/PII 32MB 2.5GB....1949.69
266/PII 32MB 4.2GB 16X....2169.89
266/PII 32MB 4.3GB 16X....2519.68
300/PII 32MB 4.2GB 16X....2476.89

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HP Brio Series mini-towers
166/MMX 16MB 2.1GB....859.76
166/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 16X....1074.57
200/MMX 16MB 2.1GB....887.57
233/PII 32MB 4GB....1249.76
266/PII 32MB 4GB....1427.78
200/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 16X....1158.45
233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB....1088.84
233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 24X....1295.73
233/PII 4GB 24X....1467.88
266/PII 4GB 24X....1589.87
300/PII 8GB 32X....1875.97
166/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 16X....1078.57
200/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 24X....1157.58
200/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 24X....1146.28
233/MMX 32MB 4GB 24X....1298.45
233/MMX 32MB 6GB 24X....1518.77
266/PII 32MB 8GB 32X 56K bps....1686.78
300/PII 64MB 8GB 32X 56K bps....2356.48

HP VE 4 Series desktops
200/MMX 16MB 2.1GB....959.98
200/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 24X....1194.67
200/MMX 32MB 3.2GB....1139.68
233/MMX 32MB 2.1GB....1059.67
233/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 24X....1295.78
233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB....1239.27

HP VE 4 Series mini-towers
200/MMX 32MB 3.2GB....1259.44
233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB....1369.87

HP VL 7 Series desktops
233/PII 32MB 3.2GB Win 95....1277.85
233/PII 32MB 3.2GB....1328.38
266/PII 64MB 4.3GB 24X....2098.76
300/PII 64MB 4.3GB 24X....2366.78

HP VL 7 Series mini-towers
233/PII 32MB 4.3GB 24X....1759.57
266/PII 64MB 6.4GB 24X....2218.85
333/PII 64MB 6.4GB 24X....2544.88

Acer

166/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 32X....849.88
200/MMX 16MB 3.2GB 32X....929.87
200/MMX 32MB 4.3GB 32X....1084.46
233/MMX 32MB 4.3GB 32X....1087.36
166/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 10/100....735.37
166/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 10/100....889.87
200/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 10/100....928.46

NOTEBOOKS

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Libretto mini-notebooks
50CT 5/75 16MB 772MB 6.1" AM....997.56
70CT 120/MMX 16MB 1.5GB 6.1" AM....1949.87

Satellite & Satellite Pro notebooks
440CDX 133/MMX 16MB 1.34GB 12.1" DS 10X....1357.06
440CDT 133/MMX 16MB 1.34GB 12.1" AM 10X....1887.65
460CDX 166/MMX 32MB 2GB 12.1" DS 10X....1737.86
470CDT 200/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM 10X....2857.45
480CDT 233/MMX 32MB 3.8GB 12.1" AM 10X....3387.56

Tecra notebooks
520CDT 166/MMX 32MB 3.8GB 12.1" AM 10X....2936.87
530CDT 166/MMX 32MB 3.8GB 12.1" AM 10X....3127.26
550CDT 266/MMX 32MB 3.8GB 12.1" AM....3847.63
740CDT 166/MMX 16MB 3GB 13.3" AM 10X WIN NT....2997.15
740CDT 166/MMX 16MB 3GB 13.3" AM 10X....2787.59
750CDT 233/MMX 32MB 4.7GB 13.3" AM 20X....4794.85
750CDM 133/MMX 32MB 4.77GB 13.3" AM 20X....4787.16
750DVD 233/MMX 64MB 4.77GB 13.3" AM DVD....4987.69

Portege notebooks
320CT 266/MMX 32MB 3.8GB 10.4" AM....3567.56

Satellite Pro 460CDX

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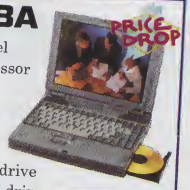

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Acer

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391T 150/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM 20X....1837.86
392T 166/MMX 32MB 3GB 12.1" AM 20X....2127.86

TravelMate notebooks
7120T 200/MMX 32MB 3GB 12.1" AM 20X....2957.49
7130TE 233/MMX 32MB 3GB 13.3" AM 20X....3397.89
7164TE 266/MMX 32MB 4.1GB 13.3" AM....3857.42

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Armada notebooks
1530DM 133/MMX 16MB 1.4GB 12.1" DS 10X....1397.61
1540DM 150/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 12.1" DS 20X....1787.49
1550DMT 5/133 16MB 1.4GB 12.1" AM 10X....1687.78
1571DM 200/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 12.1" DS 20X....2437.22
1580DMT 150/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM 10X....2437.46
1598DMT 266/MMX 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM 20X....4187.79
4131T 5/133 16MB 1.4GB 12.1" AM....997.86
4210T 233/MMX 32MB 3GB 12.1" AM....3477.36
4220T 266/MMX 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM....3967.88
7330T 150/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM....1467.36
7360DMT 200/MMX 32MB 3GB 12.1" AM....3427.23
7380DMT 266/MMX 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM....4997.56
7710MT 150/MMX 16MB 1.6GB 12.1" AM....1897.79
7730MT 166/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM....3279.65
7770DMT 233/MMX 32MB 3GB 12.1" AM 20X....3699.89
7792DMT 266/MMX 32MB 5GB 13.3" AM 20X....5457.89

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Presario notebooks
1220 200/MMX Media GX 32MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM 20X....1796.00
1622 233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 12.1" DS 20X....2499.00
1681 233/MMX 48MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM 20X....2996.00
1710SB 166/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 12.1" DS 20X....1696.00

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HP OmniBook 800 Series notebooks
800CT 166/MMX 16MB 2GB 10.4" AM....3679.68

HP OmniBook 3000 Series notebooks
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233/MMX 16MB 4GB 13.3" AM....3457.36

HP OmniBook 5700 Series notebooks
150/MMX 16MB 1.86GB 12.1" AM....1977.68
166/MMX 16MB 1.86GB 12.1" AM....2327.36
166/MMX 16MB 1.86GB 12.1" AM....2437.57
166/MMX 32MB 2.79GB 12.1" AM....2957.48

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380ED 166/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 12.1" DS 20X....1787.96
380ED 166/MMX 16MB 3GB 12.1" AM 20X....2647.87
380XD 233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 12.1" DS 24X....2387.36
380XD 233/MMX 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM 24X....3147.26
380XD 266/MMX 32MB 5.1GB 12.1" AM 24X....3617.46
560E 166/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM....2837.67
560X 200/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM....2387.65
560X 233/MMX 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM....3427.67
770 200/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 13.3" AM....3597.67
770 233/MMX 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM....4167.88
770 233/MMX 32MB 5.1GB 14.1" AM....4937.87

FUJITSU

LifeBook 500 Series notebooks
565Tx 166/MMX 32MB 2GB 12.1" AM 20X....2499.00
585Tx 233/MMX 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM 20X....3299.00

LifeBook 600 Series notebooks
656Tx 150/MMX 16MB 2GB 12.1" AM 16X....2799.00
675Tx 200/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 12.1" AM 20X....3799.00

LifeBook 700 Series notebooks
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765Dx 166/MMX 16MB 2GB 12.1" DS 20X....1499.00

HITACHI

VisionBook Plus Series notebooks
4360x 166/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM 10X....1797.36

VisionBook Pro Series notebooks
7360 166/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM 10X....2199.00
7560 166/MMX 32MB 3GB 13.3" AM 10X....2499.00
7580 233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 13.3" AM 20X....3599.00

AMS Tech Computers & Peripherals

Travel Pro 1000 Series notebooks
1960CS 166/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 12.1" DS 20X....1687.08
1965CT 200/MMX 16MB 2.1GB 12.1" AM 10X....2297.45
1970CT 233/MMX 48MB 3.1GB 12.1" AM 20X....2617.23

Travel Pro 2000 Series notebooks
2010CX 166/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 13.3" AM 20X....2557.64
2030CX 200/MMX 48MB 3.1GB 13.3" AM 16X....2897.38
2035CX 233/MMX 32MB 3.1GB 13.3" AM 20X....2887.62

Rodeo 3000 Series notebooks
3000ECX 166/MMX 32MB 3.1GB 14.1" AM 20X....3017.23
3015ECX 233/MMX 32MB 2.1GB 14.1" AM 20X....3367.74

Rodeo 5000 Series notebooks
5010ECX 233/MMX 64MB 3.1GB 14.1" AM 20X....3587.32
5030ECX 266/MMX 64MB 4GB 14.1" AM 20X....3997.51

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3C589-TP EtherLink III LAN PC Card 10BT	129.49
3C562D-TP EtherLink III 33.6 PC Card 10BT	259.16
3C905-TX Fast EtherLink XL 10/100 PCI	88.46
3C900-TPO EtherLink XL 10BT PCI	109.16
3C900-COMBO Ethernet XL PCI combo	129.25
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Courier 56K modem x2 external	245.73
Impact IQ ISDN modem external	199.95
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233/PII 32MB no hdd 16X SCSI 10/100 Enet	1695.00
233/PII 32MB 4.3GB 16X SCSI 10/100 Enet	2090.00
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266/PII 32MB no hdd 24X 10/100 Enet	1898.37
266/PII 32MB 4.2GB 24X 10/100 Enet	2175.87
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233/PII 32MB no hdd 8X	2399.58
233/PII 32MB 4.5GB 8X	3165.67
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266/PII 64MB no hdd 8X rack model	3179.87
PC Server 330 servers	
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233/PII 64MB no hdd 8X	3559.87
266/PII 64MB no hdd 8X	3719.87

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10BT 5-port workgroup hub	42.74

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StackPro 8-port 100BTX desktop hub	299.81
StackPro 16-port 100BTX rackmount hub	499.86

NETGEAR

10/100 Fast Ethernet PCI adapter	35.97
EN104TP 4-port 10BT slimline Ethernet hub	42.26
EN108TP 8-port 10BT slimline Ethernet hub	56.58
FE104 4-port 100BT Fast Ethernet hub	124.43
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Seagate Software

Backup Exec for Windows NT V7.0 single-server edition version upg	249.76
Backup Exec for Windows NT V7.0 enterprise edition version upg	364.28
Backup Exec for Windows NT V7.0 single-server edition	428.17
Backup Exec for Windows NT V7.0 enterprise edition	789.88
Backup Exec for NetWare V7.5 25-user single-server edition	307.58

SMC®

EtherEZ 10BT ISA	53.18
EtherEZ 5T 10BT hub	48.82
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EtherPower II 10/100 PCI	67.02
EtherPower 10/100 Card Bus PC Card	157.94
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Kensington Expert Mouse V5.0 PS/2	95.71
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Logitech MouseMan for notebooks	46.95
Logitech Cyberman II game controller	89.15
Microsoft IntelliMouse V3.0	58.50

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Agfa ePhoto 780 digital camera	489.25
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Epson PhotoPC 550 digital camera	299.00
Epson PhotoPC 600 XGA digital camera	699.00
Hewlett-Packard PhotoSmart digital camera	199.00
Kodak DC120 Zoom digital camera	699.00
Kodak DC210 Zoom digital camera	899.00
Minolta Dimage PIC digital camera	268.58
Minolta Dimage V digital camera	399.28
Nikon Coolpix 100 notebook camera	99.11
Nikon Coolpix 300 digital camera	669.73
Olympus D-500L digital camera	849.64
Olympus D-600L digital camera	1216.80
Ricoh RDC-300 digital camera	399.00

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Epson Expression 636 Exec	799.00
Epson Expression 836XL	2499.00
Hewlett-Packard PhotoSmart photo scanner	399.00
Hewlett Packard ScanJet 5s scanner	199.28
Hewlett Packard ScanJet 5100cse scanner	299.00
Hewlett Packard ScanJet 6100cse scanner	799.00
Logitech PageScan Color Parallel	92.07
Microtek Color PageWiz	154.83
Microtek ScanMaker E3 Plus	147.93
Microtek ScanMaker E6 standard	277.92
Minolta Dimage Scan Dual	669.88
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UMAX Mirage IIse w/MagicScan	2995.00
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Visioneer PaperPort 6000 flatbed	199.99
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HP DeskJet 694C color printer	239.00
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HP LaserJet 5Si printer	2438.03
HP LaserJet 6Lse printer	399.00
HP LaserJet 6MP printer	877.26
HP LaserJet 6Pse printer	799.00
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HP PhotoSmart photo printer	399.00

LEXMARK

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Sony Multiscan 100es 15" 0.25mm	327.70
Sony Multiscan 200es 17" PnP 0.25mm	605.80
Sony Multiscan 300sf 20" PnP 0.30mm	1129.56
ViewSonic E771 17" 0.27mm	389.54
ViewSonic G773 17" 0.26mm	469.00
ViewSonic GS771 17" 0.27mm	469.00
ViewSonic G790 19" 0.26mm	865.83
ViewSonic G810 21" 0.25mm	1089.70

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3Com LAN PC Card combo	169.88
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3Com 33.6K cellular	214.66
3Com 33.6K 10BT LAN+modem	259.16
3Com 33.6K 10BT LAN+modem combo	299.83
3Com 56K w/XJACK	214.66
3Com 56K cellular w/XJACK	214.66
Hayes ACCURA 56K	179.52
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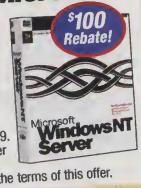

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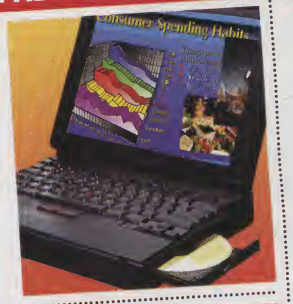

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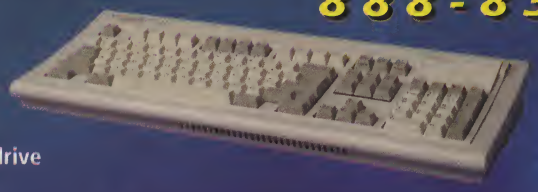

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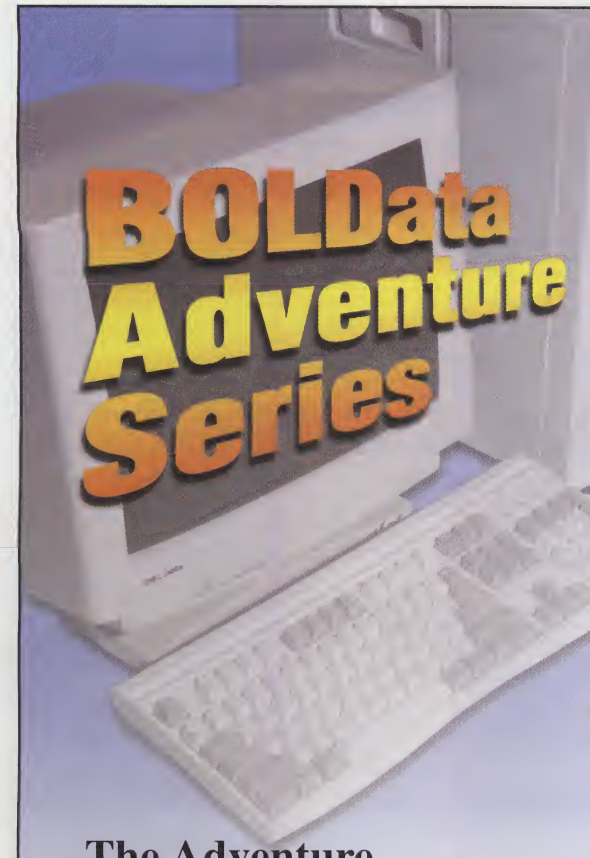

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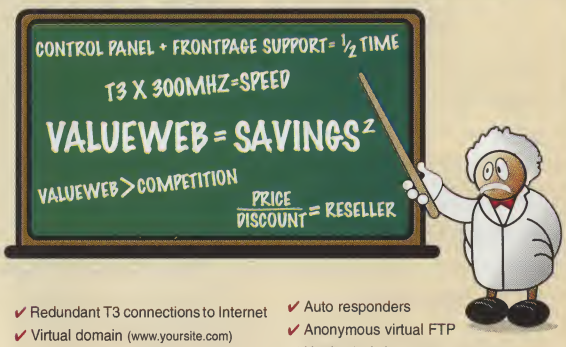

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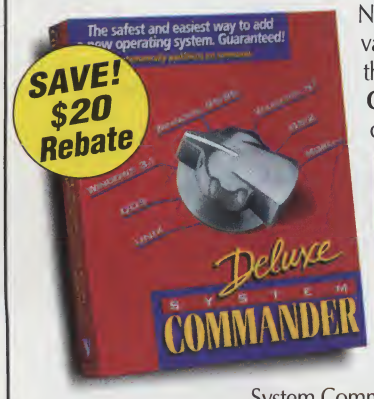

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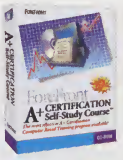

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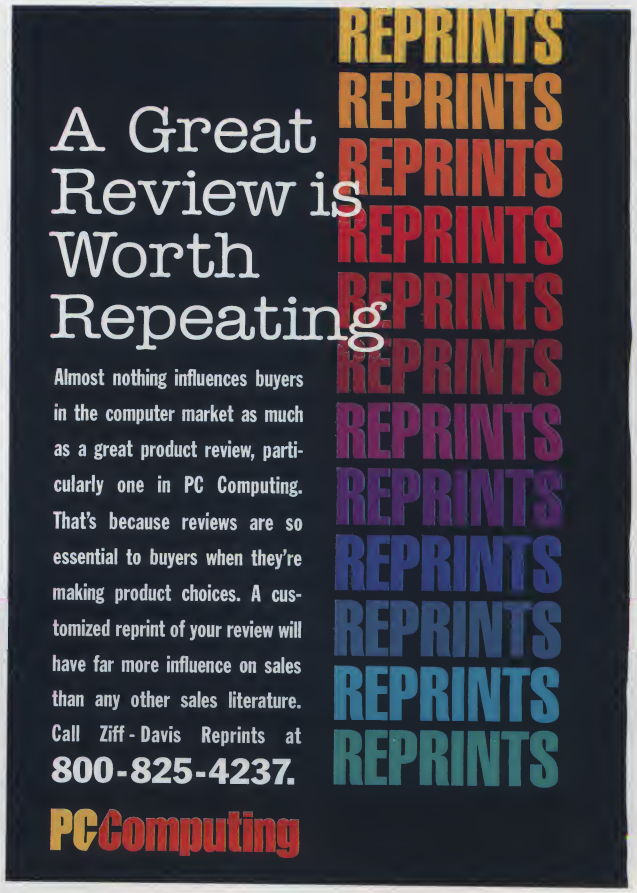

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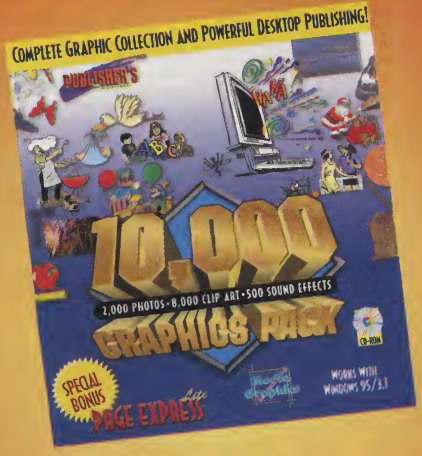

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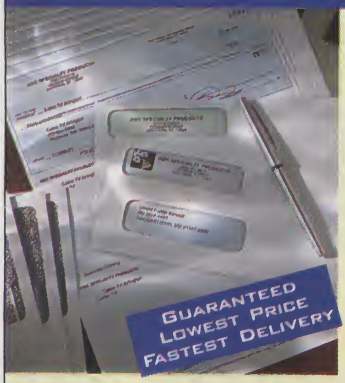

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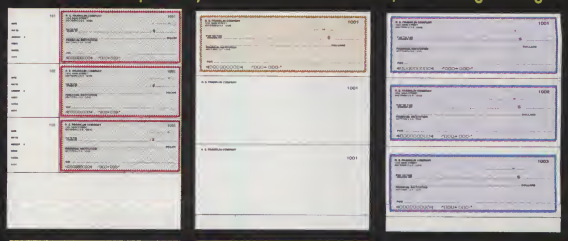

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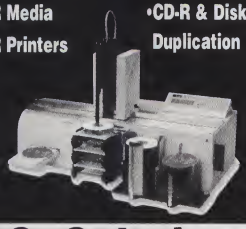

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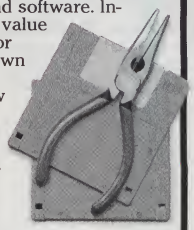

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Time Wizard 95

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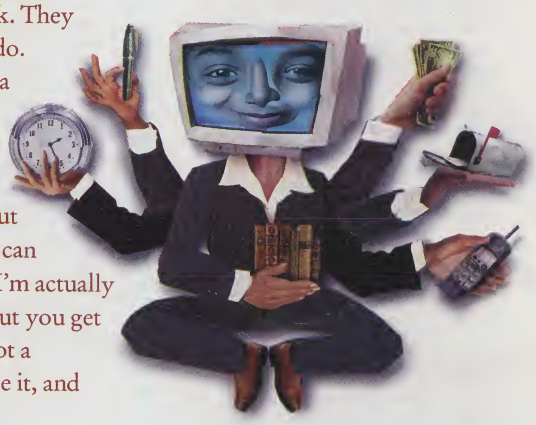
PIMS, SHMIMS



★★★★★ First of all, all PIMs suck. They never do what you want them to do. EDesk '97 The Executive Desk is a PIM . . . and you guessed it. But EDesk has scads of PIM functions, some of which you're bound to find useful, and it's all put together with a simple feel so you can master it in 10 or 15 minutes flat. I'm actually keeping this around for a while. But you get 60 days to fall in love, and if it's not a marriage made in heaven, don't use it, and don't pay 25 big ones.

Desk '97

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PDQLite

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the person knows about plumbing or computers? That's easy—computers! You are such a hopeless computer geek you'll be impressed when Larry, Darryl, and Darryl pull out their notebook running ESA—Electronic Shop Assistance. The program lets you play what-if with different materials and combinations to see how they affect both contractors' and customers' cost.
Electronic Shop Assistance

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Invoice 98

Up Size

★★★★★ If all that entrepreneuring starts dragging you down, you can always hire some help. Of course, then you've got to do all that tax stuff and fill out forms. Medlin Windows Payroll does all the math, cuts checks, creates reports, and even supplies W-2s when tax time rolls around.
Medlin Windows Payroll

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★★★★★ Has it finally come down to this? You spend your workday compulsively keeping track of just who's at their desk and who isn't? Well, if that's your kick, you couldn't do it in a nicer way than with Scotland Yard for Windows 95. On a network, it lets everyone sign in or out, give themselves do-not-disturb status, or notify others that they're out sick. It offers versatile sorting, and it handles phone messages to boot. Thirty days to try, then it's $99.
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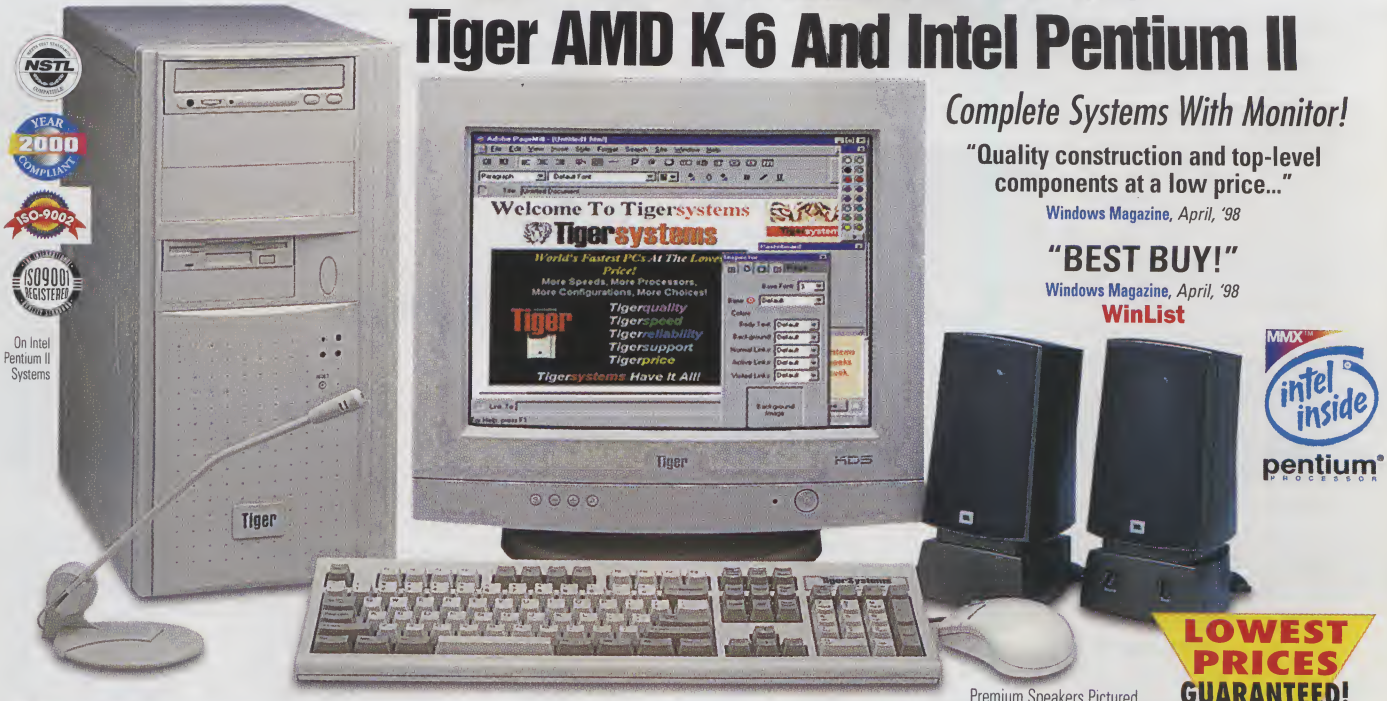

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E-mail or spam? Sometimes it's a fine line. How do you get back at spammers? Tell us at PCCmail@zd.com

By Leslie Ayers

There's a whole new I-Poll waiting for you at www.pccomputing.com.

How much e-mail do you get a day?

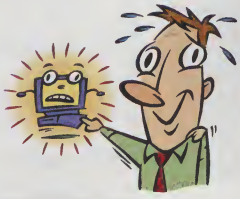
Glug. **About one-fifth of you weather a daily deluge of 21 to 50 e-mail messages. Sounds like you—along with the 7 percent who get even more—carry the weight of the 2.7 trillion messages sent last year. And with the Electronic Messaging Association's projection that 6.9 trillion messages will be sent in 2000, everyone can expect a lot more e-mail.**

Could you do your job properly without e-mail? More than half of you (53 percent) said you couldn't possibly get your job done without e-mail. No way. What about the other half? Maybe you're among the 72 percent of Americans surveyed by NFO Research for Pitney Bowes who said they prefer first-class mail over e-mail for business. But e-mail holds the speed record. Inverse Network Technology estimates that e-mail messages reach their destination within five minutes most of the time.

Does your e-mail work flawlessly? Yeah, right. We thought this would be a no-brainer—especially considering the way most e-mail systems are designed. And it's true; 49 percent of you said your e-mail setup doesn't run smoothly all the time. But the other half surprised us with their unabashed faith. How do you know what messages you're missing unless IS admits the server lost your incoming mail?

21% **of you are buried in e-mail—up to 50 messages reach your in-box daily. The rest of you: Get ready. The amount of e-mail you receive will double by the year 2000.**

Have you ever used e-mail as a scapegoat? You're the bad seeds: the 17 percent who've blamed e-mail for lack of follow-through. Blame it on your server. But don't be too quick to fault America Online—its connection rates are finally improving.



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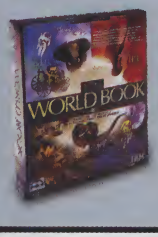

IBM 1998 WORLD BOOK MULTIMEDIA ENCYCLOPEDIA CD-ROMs Register April 27 through May 11.

The sweepstakes is open to U.S. residents over 18 years old who have access to the World Wide Web as of April 1, 1998. Entry form and complete sweepstakes rules are online at www.pccomputing.com.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARC ROSENTHAL, ELIZABETH BRANDT, AND SCOTT MATTHEWS

WE HAD THE CHOICE OF INCREASING THE PRICE OR THE SPEED.

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NEW DELL® INSPIRON™ 3200 D266XT
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- ★ **13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display**
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- ★ **4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive**
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- • Cardbus Ready/Fast IR1.1
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- • Extendable 1-Year Limited Warranty†
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- ★ *2nd Smart Lithium Ion Battery, add $169.*

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DUAL PROCESSOR/RAID CAPABLE
WORKGROUP SERVER

Common features listed above plus:

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WORKGROUP SERVER

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- 64MB ECC EDO Memory
- 4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Hard Drive (7200 rpm)
- APC Smart-UPS 700 Power Supply
- 6 Expansion Slots: 3 PCI/3 EISA
- 6 Drive Bays: 3 External 5.25"/ 3 Internal 3.5"
- 3-Year NBD On-site$^{\Delta}$ Service
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Common features: ◆ Modular Options Bay accepts 24X Max^^ Variable CD-ROM, 3.5" Floppy Drive (both included) or Optional 2nd Smart Lithium-Ion Battery ◆ 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache ◆ Stereo Speakers with 3D Surround Sound and Yamaha Software Wavetable ◆ Zoom Video and USB Ports ◆ Smart Lithium Ion Battery ◆ Cardbus Ready/Fast IR1.1 ◆ MS Windows 95 ◆ ***FREE* MS Windows 98 Upgrade Packet**^J ◆ MS Internet Explorer ◆ Touchpad ◆ Extendable 1-Year Limited Warranty†

***NEW* DELL INSPIRON 3200 D266XT**
266MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR
FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 144MB SDRAM Memory
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem
- Leather Carrying Case
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
- 6.9 Pounds*

★ *Inspiron Port Replicator, add $159.*
★ *3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter, add $169.*

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Business Lease◊: $147/Mo., 36 Mos.
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***NEW* DELL INSPIRON 3200 D266XT**
266MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR
FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
- 6.9 Pounds*

★ *Upgrade to 96MB SDRAM, add $199.*
★ *2nd Smart Lithium Ion Battery, add $169.*
★ *Leather Carrying Case, add $99.*

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Business Lease◊: $125/Mo., 36 Mos.
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DELL INSPIRON 3000 M233XT
233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 32MB SDRAM Memory
- 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- 56K Capable$^{\pi}$ K-Flex Modem
- Leather Carrying Case
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
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WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 32MB SDRAM Memory
- 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
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★ *Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add $199.*
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Business Lease◊: $83/Mo., 36 Mos.
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Common features: ◆ Mini-Tower Model ◆ 512KB Integrated L2 Cache ◆ 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive ◆ Two USB Ports ◆ MS® Office 97 Small Business Edition plus Bookshelf 98 ◆ McAfee VirusScan ◆ MS Windows® 95 ◆ ***FREE* MS Windows 98 Upgrade Packet**√ ◆ MS Internet Explorer ◆ Dell® QuietKey® Keyboard ◆ MS IntelliMouse® ◆ 3-Year Limited Warranty† ◆ 1-Year On-site^Δ Service **Upgrades:** ◆ HP® DeskJet® 722C, add $299 ◆ HP LaserJet® 6Lse, add $429 ◆ APC Back-UPS Pro 650 PnP, add $289

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333MHz PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR
FEATURING MMX™ TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:
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- 16.8GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
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- *NEW* Diamond Permedia 2 8MB 3D AGP Video Card
- 32X Max^ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- *NEW* Turtle Beach Montego A3D 64 Voice PCI Sound Card
- ACS-295 Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive

$3149

Business Lease◊: $116/Mo., 36 Mos.
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DELL DIMENSION XPS D300
300MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR
FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:
- 128MB SDRAM Memory
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1200HS 19" (17.9" v.i.s., .26dp) Monitor
- STB nVidia 4MB 3D AGP Video Card
- 2X DVD-ROM Drive and Decoder Card
- *NEW* Turtle Beach Montego A3D 64 Voice PCI Sound Card
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DELL DIMENSION XPS D333
333MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR
FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:
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- 1200HS 19" (17.9" v.i.s., .26dp) Monitor
- STB nVidia 4MB 3D AGP Video Card
- 2X DVD-ROM Drive and Decoder Card
- *NEW* Turtle Beach Montego A3D 64 Voice PCI Sound Card
- Altec ACS-495 Full Dolby Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive
- Dell Comfort Key Keyboard

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Common features listed above plus:
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- 8.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1200HS 19" (17.9" v.i.s., .26dp) Monitor
- *NEW* Diamond Permedia 2 8MB 3D AGP Video Card
- 32X Max^ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- *NEW* Turtle Beach Montego A3D 64 Voice PCI Sound Card
- Altec ACS-495 Full Dolby Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
- Dell QuietKey Keyboard

$2899

Personal Lease°: $140/Mo., 24 Mos.
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DELL DIMENSION XPS D300
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FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:
- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1000TX 17" (15.9" v.i.s., .26dp) Trinitron Monitor
- *NEW* Diamond Permedia 2 8MB 3D AGP Video Card
- 32X Max^ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Integrated Yamaha Wavetable Sound
- Altec Lansing ACS-295 Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive
- Dell QuietKey Keyboard

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